作者からのメッセージ

私、手相にＫＹ線があるんですよ…。
今年、うっすらへこんだ出来事です。
私が空気読めなかったら、誰かこっそり教えてください。こっそりでいいですよ。
そんなこんなで5巻です。
やっと、矢内先輩が表紙です。

恋も夢もココにある。
ベツコミ
毎月13日ごろ発売!!
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FC FLOWER COMICS
ベツコミフラワーコミックス

Piece［volume.5］

芦原妃名子

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自分の"感覚"なんてびっくりするくらい脆い
今 見えてる世界を信じる勇気がない——

はるかの元彼は成海の兄・比呂だと確信した水帆。比呂の居場所を知るため成海の母親・理沙子を訪ねるが、彼女の口から聞かされたのは「比呂は異性恐怖症」「二切連絡を取っていない」という内容だった。元彼捜しは再び行き詰まるが、かつて比呂が住んでいた茨城に向かい、彼の情報を集める水帆。そんな中、比呂に関わっていた人物が浮上する。一方、姿を消していた成海から、水帆の携帯に連絡が入って…？

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1話目ためし読み
300タイトル以上!
無料待ち受けもいっぱいあるよ♪
※別途通信料がかかります。

Cover design／
黒木香＋ベイブリッジ スタジオ

Piece⑤

Piece
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Piece 5

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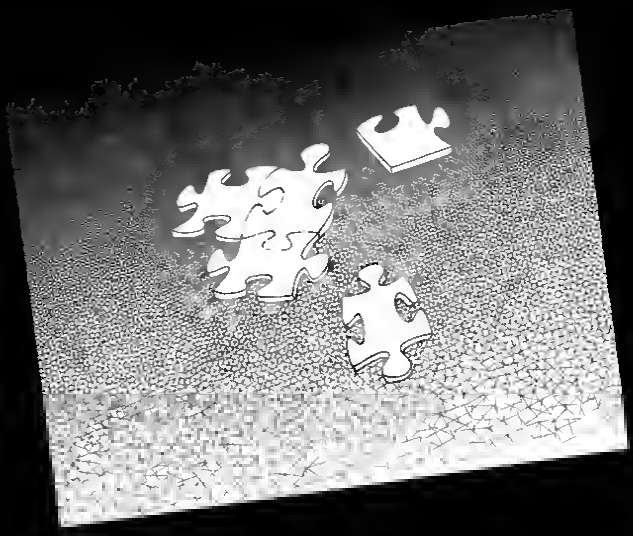
ピース

[Volume.5]

＊ベツコミフラワーコミックス＊



芦原妃名子

Piece [Volume.5]

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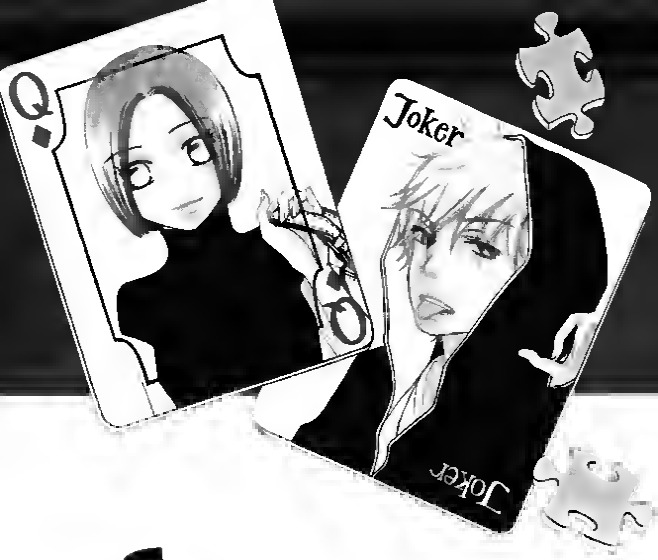
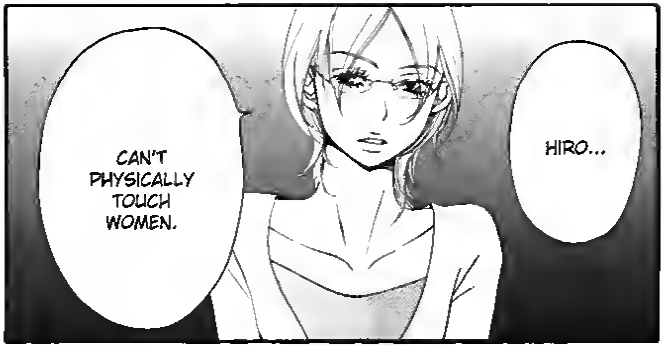
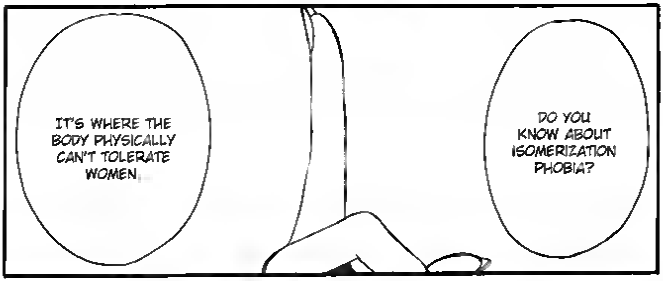


Story10

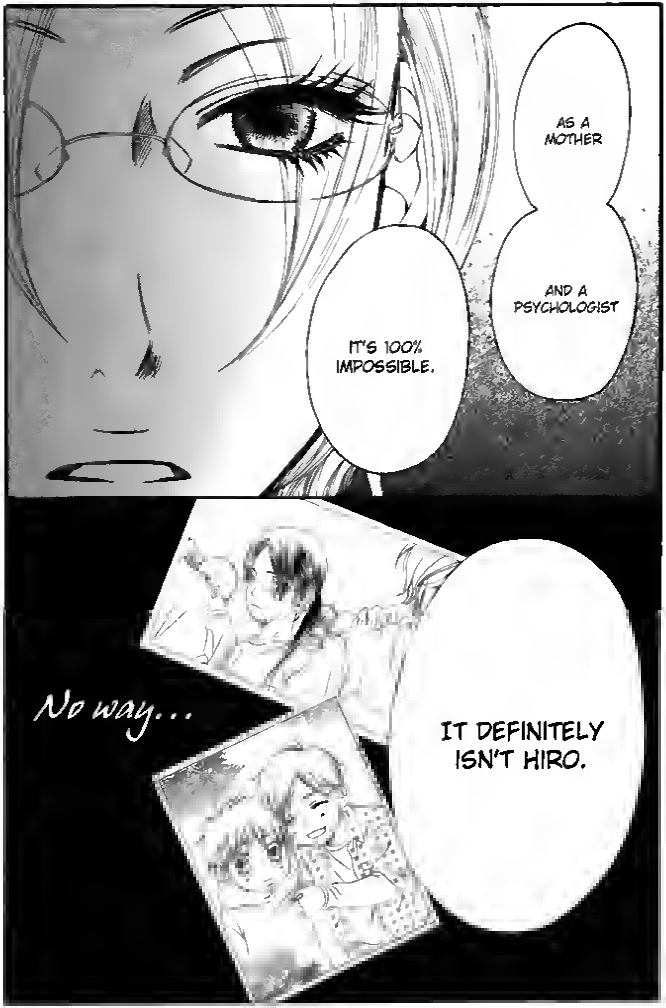
Hino-kun good luck
Librarian
Is he a little feminine?

"HE ALWAYS..."
H.N
The evidence was strong.
"SMELLS LIKE OIL AND ACRYLIC PAINTS."
"A VERY"
The "ex-boyfriend" who got Onuma-san pregnant
is Hiro-san
Hikaru 6
Hiro 7
"VERY GENTLE PERSON."
"HE'S A KIND PERSON."
IT'S NOT HIRO.
Narumi's brother.


HIRO...
CAN'T PHYSICALLY TOUCH WOMEN.


DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ISOMERIZATION PHOBIA?
IT'S WHERE THE BODY PHYSICALLY CAN'T TOLERATE WOMEN.

A BOY LIKE THAT
COULDN'T POSSIBLY GET ORIGUCHI-SAN PREGNANT.

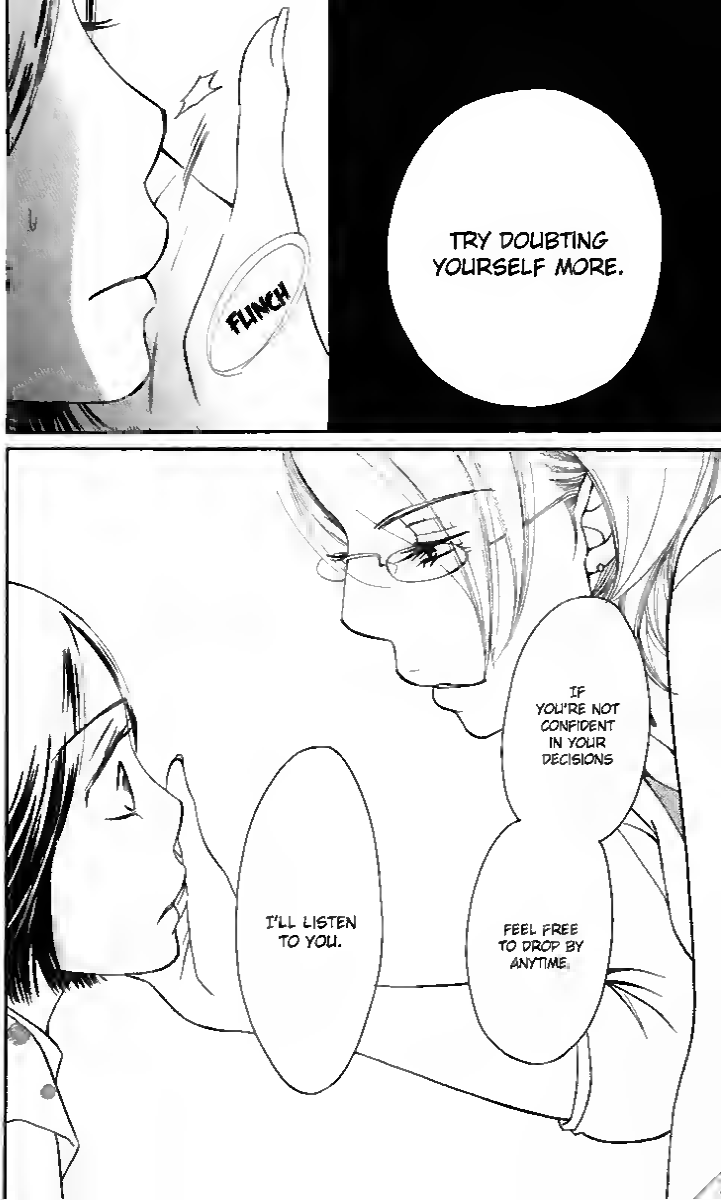

AS A MOTHER
AND A PSYCHOLOGIST
IT'S 100% IMPOSSIBLE.
No way...
IT DEFINITELY ISN'T HIRO.

When my high school classmate "Onozuka Haruka" died
"HARUKA WAS PREGNANT WITH THAT MAN'S BABY"
"ARE YOU SAYING SHE HAD AN ABORTION?"
I was asked to find her high school boyfriend.
I had finally come to a conclusion.
HE CAN'T TOUCH WOMEN?
IS THAT TRUE?
It isn't Hino-san?
Onozuka-san aborted the ex-boyfriend's child?
Then it's someone else...
NORMALLY
WOULDN'T IT BE HIKARU?

Decided
HIKARU'S LOVE FOR WOMEN
IS A SICKNESS.
TONG
blow
I guarantee you it's not amusing!!
AS A MOTHER AND PSYCHOLOGIST
click
I CAN ASCERTAIN MY CONFIDENCE
MIZUHO-SAN
BUT... NARUMI... HIKARU-SAN IS DIFFERENT FROM THE BOYFRIEND'S IMAGE...
so...
WELL... BY WHAT YOU MEAN...
Ermm
No! It's true!!
NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...!!
CLATTER
THEN, WHAT ARE YOU?
Hmm
AH, I WAS WRONG
HUH?!
ARE YOU HIKARU'S BEDMATE?

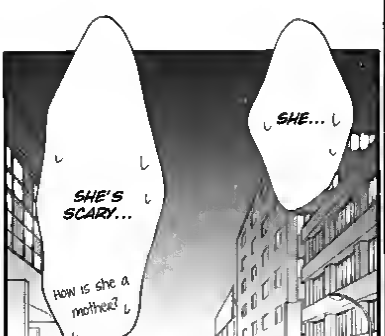
He pushed me around.
We were former high school classmates.
and we slept together...
I made him curry
He threw things at me
We've kissed and hugged, but I'm not his girlfriend
IN OTHER WORDS
thud
THAT'S HORRIBLE
Below a bedmate
slump
I'M EXHAUSTED...
NO...!
I QUESTIONED MANY PEOPLE FOR THE "TRUTH"...!
THE MIND
IS EASY TO DECEIVE.
AREN'T YOU
TRYING TO SET SOMEONE ELSE UP AS THE "BAD GUY"?
MIZUHO-SAN
YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND A SHRED OF GOOD IN HIKARU

YOU DISTORT IT TO YOUR OWN LIKING.
YOU DISTORT THE "TRUTH" TO JUSTIFY YOURSELF.
FOR YOU TO HAVE FALLEN FOR A GUY LIKE THAT
"SOMEONE ELSE IS IN THE WRONG"
"HE'S A PITIABLE PERSON."
"HE'S JUST A LITTLE WEAK."
"HE ISN'T THAT BAD A PERSON."
THEY'RE MY PATIENTS.
THEY WORRY SO MUCH THEY THINK THEY'LL DIE
MANY WOMEN LIKE THAT COME TO CALL ON ME.

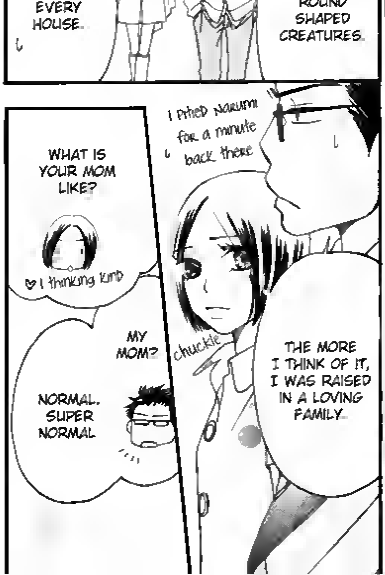

FLINCH
TRY DOUBTING YOURSELF MORE.
IF YOU'RE NOT CONFIDENT IN YOUR DECISIONS
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU.
FEEL FREE TO DROP BY ANYTIME.

UMM...!
PLEASE...
TELL ME WHERE HIRO-SAN IS...!
I WANT TO MAKE SURE...
HE REALLY ISN'T THE "BOYFRIEND"...
I DON'T KNOW.

HE LEFT HOME ON HIS TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY.
HE HASN'T CONTACTED ME ONCE.
IT'S THE TRUTH.


SHE...
SHE'S SCARY...
How is she a mother?

I...
THOUGHT MOTHERS WERE MORE ROUND SHAPED CREATURES.
I GUESS..
NOT IN EVERY HOUSE.

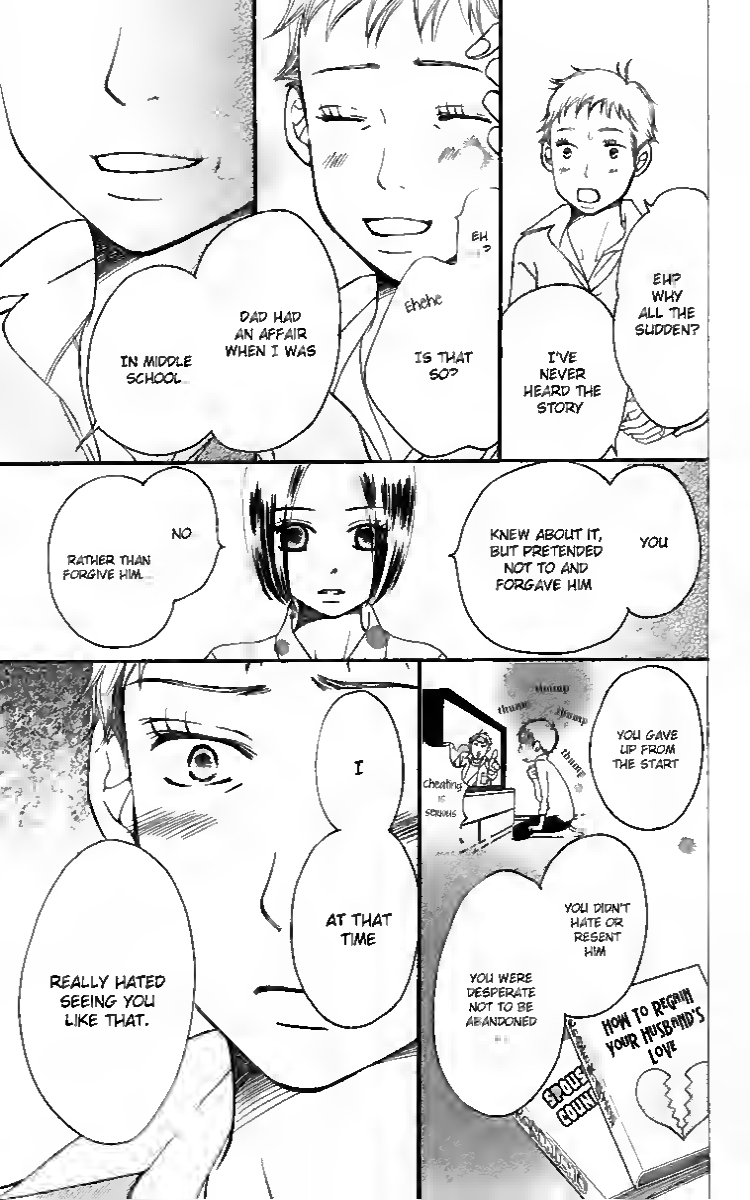

I pitied Narumi for a minute back there
chuckle
THE MORE I THINK OF IT, I WAS RAISED IN A LOVING FAMILY.
WHAT IS YOUR MOM LIKE?
♡ I thinking kind
MY MOM?
NORMAL. SUPER NORMAL

AND SHE'S SOFT SPOKEN
SHE LIKES TEA AND FLOWERS
SHE WAS RAISED TO BE A LADY
"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TAKASHI."
EHEHEHE
oh my, what a problem
AHAHAHA
"WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF DAD CHEATED ON YOU?"
"OH! NICE GOING DAD."
He's the ideal boss♡
ONE TIME MY FATHER GOT SOME CHOCOLATE FROM A FEMALE CO-WORKER FOR VALENTINE'S DAY
Gratitude
"I MARRIED HIM"
"WITH THAT RESOLUTION IN MIND."
Ooo
AHAHA
ONCE IN A WHILE SHE'S SCARY.
"I'D KILL YOUR FATHER."
BUT COMPARED TO NARUMI'S FAMILY
SHE'S COMPLETELY NORMAL.
YEAH...
Right?

I don't know what normal is.
SEEMS "NORMAL"...
EVEN MY FAMILY
Very!
I thought I had
a lot of things missing in my life.
Lately
I often think about them.
HUH?
many things
I do think though there were
I did have.

MOM!
I LEFT EARLY ♡
Hehe
YOU'RE HOME EARLY WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT ABOUT WORK?
LATELY
WE HAVEN'T HAD DINNER TOGETHER FOR A WHILE.
Good, it's done ♡
CLACK
WELCOME HOME!
WAH! BEEF STEW ♡
When did you put it together?
WASH UP AND GIVE ME HAND
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
SURE!
WHEN I WAS A CHILD
I BOASTED ABOUT HOW GOOD YOUR BEEF STEW WAS.

I'D TELL MY FRIENDS IT TOOK HALF A DAY TO COOK
AND THAT YOU COULD BREAK UP THE MEAT WITH CHOPSTICKS!
Ahh it's delicious
THEY'D SAID IT SOUNDED LIKE A RESTAURANT AND THEY WERE JEALOUS...
YOU ALWAYS ATE IT UP WITHOUT LEAVING ANYTHING BEHIND
IT ALWAYS MADE ME HAPPY!
Blushs
YOUR FATHER
DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE FOR IT MUCH...
It made me sad to see the beef stew that mother took half a day cooking
never said mom's cooking was "good" or "bad"
If he didn't care for it
He would silently put down his chopsticks
tat
AH, IT'S OKAY! YOUR FATHER WILL BE HOME LATE.
I PREPARED another menu
Father
...MOM
WHY DID YOU MARRY DAD?
go cold.


EH?
ehehe
DAD HAD AN AFFAIR WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
IS THAT SO?
EHP WHY ALL THE SUDDEN?
I'VE NEVER HEARD THE STORY
NO
RATHER THAN FORGIVE HIM...
YOU KNEW ABOUT IT, BUT PRETENDED NOT TO AND FORGAVE HIM
I
AT THAT TIME
REALLY HATED SEEING YOU LIKE THAT.
thump thump thump thump
Cheating is sadness
YOU GAVE UP FROM THE START
YOU DIDN'T HATE OR RESENT HIM
YOU WERE DESPERATE NOT TO BE ABANDONED
HOW TO REGAIN YOUR HUSBAND'S LOVE
SADDEST COUPLE

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN DAD?
I was always afraid to ask.
...I NEEDED ...HIM.
SINCE I MET HIM...
AND EVEN NOW.
I DON'T KNOW
I CAN SEE MY ROLE WHEN YOUR FATHER IS AROUND
WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT YOUR FATHER
IT ISN'T LOVE OR HATE...
I'll be disappointed if I hear the answer.
But...
I'll feel miserable.
...DO YOU DISDAIN ME?
YOU ARE NOT LIKE ME YOU'RE LEVELHEADED

...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU WEIRD THINGS
THANK YOU
FOR ANSWERING
I
LOVE YOU, MOM
Ehh?!
But
Why are you crying?
sob sob sob sob
My mother's lifestyle
is a little different
and it hurts me.
I wonder if my hatred
for her came from that overreliance.
I feel like you're teasing me.
Hang on!
WHEN YOUR CHILD LIES
MODERN EDUCATION'S COLLAPSE
THE BOOK OF FAMILY TIES
In a sense
I wonder if I've depended on her up until now.
SERIES
36

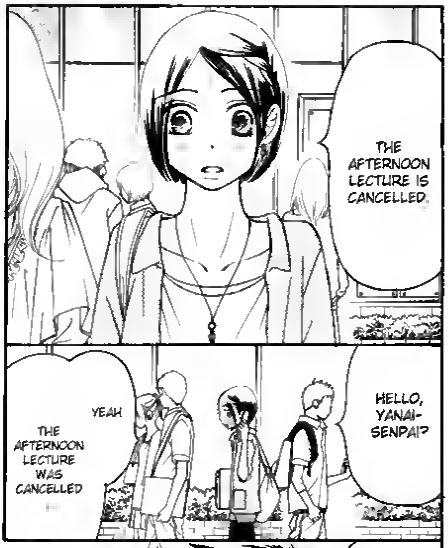
What do
each of us
chose?
"MOM IS MOM."
"DAD IS DAD."
"I'M ME."
It's just
that.
WHEN YOUR
MODERN EDUC.
There is
no right
answer.
SE
THE PROPER FAMILY PATH
COMFORTING THE HEART
Cancelation Notice
AH!

Baba-San

Hiro's housekeeper. Addicted to pachinko. It's a series of bad adults.

In the Kansai region "baba"="poop", so it's a funny name to have.

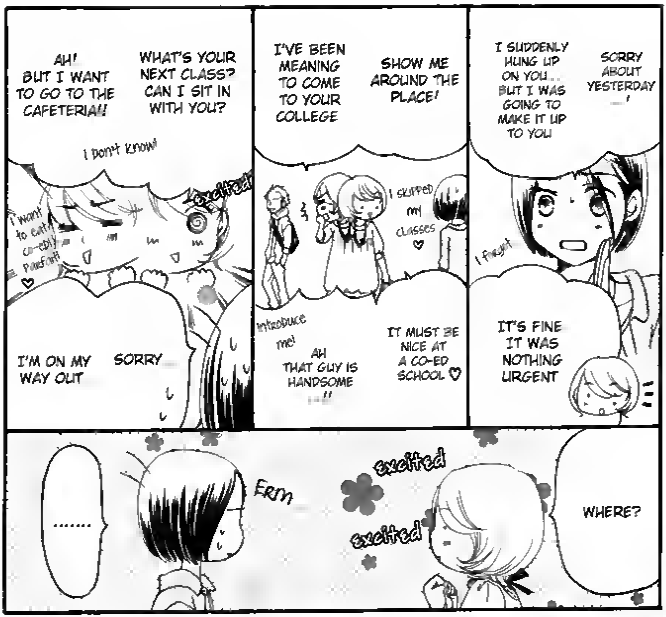
"Baba-san" wanted to grow up fast and get married so she could change her surname.

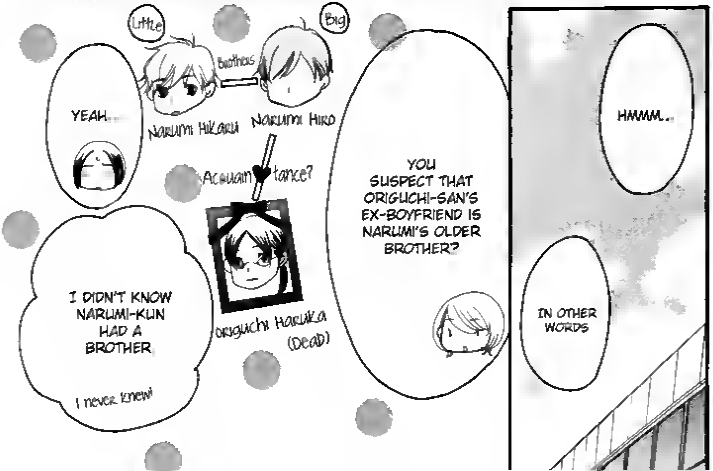


I'M GOING TO IBARAKI NOW
AH, COULD YOU INVITE SETOUCHI-SAN?
I CAN'T MISS CLASS TODAY...
YES TO LOOK FOR "NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER" "HIRO-SAN"
IT'S LIKELY HE HAS FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES IN THAT CITY
I'LL try contacting them.
SETOUCHI-SAN CAN'T EITHER

Ah! MIZUHO!!
Hi!
Huh?! REMI?!
IT'S OKAY I'LL GO ALONE...
glance
glance
I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU! ♡ I WAS THINKING ABOUT CALLING YOU JUST NOW! ♡
EHH?! WHY ARE YOU AT MY COLLEGE...?
GASP
you startled me!
"...I'M SORRY REMI NOW IS NOT A GOOD TIME!"
Latex
"LISTEN TO ME! THE OTHER DAY KYOU-CHAN
blah blah
click
"I'M SORRY!!"
OH NO!!
silence
I HUNG UP ON HER YESTERDAY
AND I FORGOT TO CALL HER BACK...!!

Piece⑤


AH! BUT I WANT TO GO TO THE CAFETERIA!!
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT CLASS? CAN I SIT IN WITH YOU?
I DON'T KNOW
I WON'T TO EAT! CO-ED! PANIC!!
EXCITED!
I'M ON MY WAY OUT
SORRY...
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO COME TO YOUR COLLEGE
SHOW ME AROUND THE PLACE!
I SKIPPED MY CLASSES ♡
INTRODUCE ME!
AH THAT GUY IS HANDSOME ...!!
IT MUST BE NICE AT A CO-ED SCHOOL ♡
I SUDDENLY HUNG UP ON YOU... BUT I WAS GOING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU
SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY ...!
I FIGHT
IT'S FINE IT WAS NOTHING URGENT
.....
ERM...
EXCITED!
EXCITED!
WHERE?


Little
Brothers
Big
YEAH...
Narumi Hikaru
Narumi Hiro
Acquaintance?
I DIDN'T KNOW NARUMI-KUN HAD A BROTHER
I never knew!
Origuchi Haruka (Dead)
YOU SUSPECT THAT ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND IS NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER?
HMMM...
IN OTHER WORDS

HIS BROTHER LIVED IN IBARAKI?
Complicated family
YEAH... TILL A YEAR AGO.
HE MOVED SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW
In Ibaraki
SO... I'M GOING TO GATHER INFORMATION...
CAN'T YOU JUST ASK NARUMI-KUN?
THEY'RE BROTHERS, SO HE SHOULD KNOW
At least
ABOUT THAT...
NARUMI IS ALSO MISSING AT THE MOMENT...
It's been a week and I still can't get a hold of him
Please leave a message in the voice mail box of
OHH.
For brothers they're a fussy bunch.
THAT'S THE SITUATION.
Sniff I need to go!
CAN I GO WITH YOU TO IBARAKI?
EH?
I'LL HELP YOU
FIND ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND.

PRETZ
PRETZELS
CARAMEL, AFTERNOON BLACK TEA AND JASMINE TEA
820 YEN
OH! ANPAN TOO!!
Ehh?
REMI!! HURRY UP! THE TRAIN IS COMING!!
Ah, Dried squid too
WOOOT
IS IT TWO AND A HALF HOURS TO IBARAKI...?
rattle
rattle
IT'S LIKE A TRIP
HOW FUN!
REMI..
WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S FAR.
YOU WERE AGAINST FINDING ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND
WHAT?

YEAH
I STILL THINK THAT
HID HIS EXISTENCE
TILL HER UNTIMELY DEATH
IT WAS INSENSITIVE TO FIND HIM WHEN ORIGUCHI-SAN
YOU SAID
I HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.
EH?
YOU THINK SO TOO
I KNOW
Rami's always
been
able to get to the heart of matters.
I WANTED
TO KNOW WHY.
I'VE SEEN YOUR COLD LACK OF INTEREST WITH OTHER PEOPLE
UGH!
GULP
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!
ALL OF THE SUDDEN NOW YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE LIKE A "NOSY OLD LADY"

I always
pretended not to notice...
...REMI
DO YOU
NOT LIKE ME...?
HUH?!
BUT...!
SOMETIMES YOU SAY MEAN THINGS..!
PUNCH!
ARE YOU STUPID?!
I'M ALWAYS TEXTING AND CALLING YOU!!
I'M ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS THE ONE TO INVITE YOU OUT AND SUGGEST THINGS!!!
HOW... COULD YOU MISINTERPRET THAT...?
DO YOU
REMEMBER THE DAY WE FIRST MET?
sigh
Really now
...MIZUHO...
I'm Shiori
Yes?

THE FIRST TIME...
APRIL, OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
NO.
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS...
WE HAD JUST ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL
WE WERE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS
YOUR CLASS WAS NEXT TO MINE.
OF COURSE WE DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER YET...
WE HAD GYM CLASS TOGETHER.
Chatter
Chatter
Ahahaha
WE CHANGED IN THE SAME CLASSROOM...
Chatter
...Wow...
She sure is...

I wouldn't
guess she was a first year as well.
Plump
Muscular
HEY!
SHE'S MORE ADULT.
SHE ISN'T SHOWY.
AMAZING ♡
She isn't too thin
but there's no fat on her.
REALLY PRETTY.
thump thump
Good balance ♡ too.
THEN, DO YOU DIET?!
I don't
NOT REALLY
Body ?!
I don't
? NOT REALLY...
Ehh?
YOU DON'T?! WITH A BODY LIKE THAT?!
DO YOU WORK OUT?!
I CAN'T ...
GAIN MUCH WEIGHT...
They do exist!! The People Who Can't Get Fat"!!!
kyaah!
I'd love to say that just once!!

I WAS SO HAPPY
IN OUR SECOND YEAR
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS
IT HAPPENED
DID... THAT HAPPEN?
SORRY, I DIDN'T REMEMBER.
SUGA-SAN LET'S GO TO GYM
SURE
"SUGA-SAN"?
Oo
"IT'S SUGA-SAN, RIGHT?!"
Part
DONG
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME!!!
Ermm
GOOD TO SEE YOU
I'M NISHIDA REMI! I WAS IN THE CLASS NEXT DOOR!!
WE ALWAYS HAD GYM CLASS TOGETHER!!
.....
IS THAT SO .?
COUGH COUGH
WE GOT CLOSE AFTER I WAS SO FORWARD WITH YOU

then asked me.
"AH! I'M IN THIS GROUP."
I THOUGHT I WAS HER ONLY FRIEND!
TONG
"WZUHO! LET'S BE IN THE SAME GROUP...!"
CLATTER
I WANTED TO BE IN THE SAME GROUP WITH YOU.
IN JUNE WE HAD A GROUP PROJECT.
You can't make up your own group.
Group Project
HAD A BIT OF A ONE-SIDED CRUSH ON YOU.
I ALWAYS
Doesn't remember.
drip
drip
drip
drip
I'M... SORRY ...
drip
drip
drip
ONE-SIDED CRUSHES ARE LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT MAD.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH FEELINGS
IT'S MISERABLE AND PATHETIC
BUT I WANTED TO SHARE IT.
YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT POPULAR WITH MEN.
Ah! Yeah!
Eh?!
YOU WERE POPULAR
THAT'S WRONG.

"AN ICE QUEEN BEAUTY?"
"ISN'T SUGA SAN NICE?"
Yeah, I guess.
Like her.
"BUT THERE'S NO WAY"
"WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE"
I HEARD BOYS GOSSIPING ABOUT YOU
You're wrong.
glance
YES, RESULTS WISE YOU'RE NOT POPULAR.
UNTIL.. MY FORMER BOYFRIEND ASKED ME OUT... YOMIYOSHI-SAN... I NEVER ONCE WAS POPULAR WITH ANYONE!!
NO...! BUT!
It's not that!
He cheated on me and tossed me aside!
I EVEN WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU
I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO ATTRACT OTHERS
AND BE ABLE TO SHOOT THEM DOWN
Shoot...?
I WAS SUPER SUPER JEALOUS OF YOU
"SHE'LL JUST SHOOT ME DOWN IF I ASK HER OUT."
She's scary!
MIZUHO
THEY REJECTED THEMSELVES BEFORE ASKING YOU OUT.

heh
I'M SORRY
I'M AN AWFUL PERSON
I'll be careful from now on!
REMI...
I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING
I FEEL BETTER NOW!!
Ehehe
LET'S GO, MIZUHO!!
AH! WE CHANGE TRAINS NOW!
NEXT UP, MITO STATION
rattle
I never knew Remi felt that way.
NEXT UP, OO STATION
woosh
I LIKED YOU A LOT.
BUT I WAS A LITTLE ENVIOUS.
SO SOMETIMES
I WANT TO SAY MEAN THINGS.

I'm surprised.
THIS IS THE CITY NARUMI KUN'S 'BROTHER' LIVED IN?
Ehm
THIS WAY..
WHERE'S THE HOUSE?
Uwah!
WHAT A HUGE HOUSE!!
He's rich?!
A DIFFERENT FAMILY LIVES IN IT NOW..
Yamashita -san
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
FIRST WE'LL TALK TO THE NEIGHBORS.
OHH, HIRO-KUN OF THE NARUMI HOUSEHOLD.
I REMEMBER HIM.
of COURSE

HE WAS A CUTE CHILD WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.
GROWN UP
ND POLITE.
HE ALWAYS GREETED ME WHEN HE SAW ME
bow
"AFTER ..."
"AFTERNOON ...!"
oh, after-noon
HOWEVER
WHEN HE ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL
HE BECAME GLOOMY.
I DON'T THINK HE WENT TO SCHOOL MUCH EITHER.
SOMETIMES I SAW HIM LEAVE THE HOUSE WITH PAINTS...
HE IGNORED ME WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM.
HE DIDN'T ASSOCIATE WITH ANY OF THE NEIGHBORS
PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THOUGHT "HE'S CHANGED A LITTLE."
HE LIVED WITH THE HOUSEKEEPER, RIGHT?
HE NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT MOVING.
I HAVE NO IDEA
WHERE HE MOVED...
HE WAS GONE WHEN I NOTICED IT.
I'M RELIEVED THE FAMILY WHO MOVED IN AFTER HIM
ARE NICE PEOPLE.

I THINK WENT TO THE SAME ELEMENTARY.
THREE HOUSES DOWN, MARUKAWA -SAN'S DAUGHTER
YES.
HE WORE A PRIVATE SCHOOL UNIFORM.
come to think of it
SCHOOL?
MARUKAWA
I DON'T KNOW HIM WELL.
THEY WERE IN DIFFERENT GRADES THOUGH.
YES.
MY DAUGHTER WENT TO SAKAKI ELEMENTARY...
Hmm...
Did he go here?
ERMM, "HIRO NARUMI".
SUGITA-SENSEI, DO YOU REMEMBER HIM?
HE WAS IN THE 22ND GRADUATING CLASS.
GIVE US THE ADDRESS FOR SAKAKI ELEMENTARY?
COULD YOU...
HIRO NARUMI...
Hiro Narumi
YES.
HE GRADUATED FROM HERE.
SAKAKI ELEMENTARY

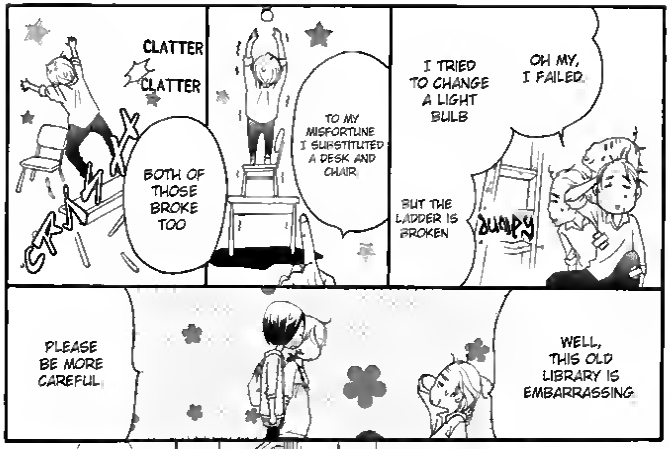
COULD YOU TAKE A GUESS?
WHERE IS THE MIDDLE SCHOOL HIRO-SAN ATTENDED?
I JUST NEED THE MOST LIKELY CHOICE.
NO! IT'S KAGOSHIMA!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IT'S HOKKAIDO!!
EXCUSE ME
Either one is really far away
HE WENT BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN IN HOKKAIDO
IGUCHI-SENSEI WAS THE TEACHER THEN AND HE'S RETIRED NOW.
HUH?! IGUCHI-SENSEI SAID HE'S FROM KAGOSHIMA.
Hmm...
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM THOUGH.
I FEEL EMPTY. SOMEHOW
WE ONLY JUST STARTED LOOKING FOR HIM
BY THE WAY...
IT'S CRUEL THAT NO ONE
REMEMBERS HIM
HE LIVED IN THIS CITY FOR TWENTY YEARS
The middle school is far.
ISN'T THAT SAD?
AND NOT ONE PERSON WAS CLOSE WITH HIRO-SAN
DO YOU REMEMBER ORIGUCHI -SAN'S FUNERAL?
HONESTLY UNTIL THAT DAY
I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER
EH?

EVERYONE WAS LAUGHING LIKE IT WAS A SCHOOL REUNION
"ME NEITHER"
"I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE"
Yada!
Long time no see
BUT THE TRUTH WAS DIFFERENT
A lonely girl
no one remembers.
WHEN I TRACKED DOWN ORIGUCHI-SAN'S PAST
I RAN INTO MANY PEOPLE WHO SURROUNDED HER
SHE HAD WAY MORE PEOPLE WHO LOVED HER THAN I HAD THOUGHT
I WAS ENVIOUS OF HER AT TIMES.

Somewhere
there is someone who knows Hiro-san intimately...
"I TOOK HIKARU"
"TO SEE HIRO-KUN MANY TIMES IN IBARAKI"
NOW I CAN LOOK AT THE WORLD
AND NOT THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING.
SOMEONE
TODAY I WENT HOME. I'M OKAY. ED
"...IT'S A LITTLE HARD"
"TO LOVE SOMEONE."
EAGERLY
LOVED HER.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN FRONT OF THE STATION...!
THAT'S RIGHT.
"EVERY MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL"
"THE HOUSEKEEPER"
"DROPS ME OFF AT THE LIBRARY AND GOES TO PLAY PACHINKO."
Hiro-san made memories with Narumi
-at this place-
"THEY SAW EACH OTHER"
"ALWAYS"
"AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN FRONT OF THE STATION..."
PUBLIC LIBRARY

dusty
What...
WHAT A
OLD-FASHIONED LIBRARY...
CLACK
NO ONE IS AROUND.
YEAH..
BANG
BANG
ouch
OH MY, VISITORS..
ARE ..
OW
OWW..
ARE YOU OKAY?!


CLATTER
CLATTER
CRASH
BOTH OF THOSE BROKE TOO
TO MY MISFORTUNE I SUBSTITUTED A DESK AND CHAIR
I TRIED TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB
OH MY, I FAILED
BUT THE LADDER IS BROKEN
BUMPY
PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL
WELL, THIS OLD LIBRARY IS EMBARRASSING

THE WALLS AND PILLARS
AND EVEN THE MANY BOOKS
HOLD A PLACE
IN EACH CHILD'S MEMORY WHO HAS VISITED HERE.

THEY'LL TEAR DOWN THIS PLACE SOON ENOUGH
I can't replace anything
THE CITY COUNCIL DOESN'T FUND IT ANYMORE
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN HAS DECREASED
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT UNAVOIDABLE AS TIME GOES BY
Eh?!
THIS LIBRARY WILL BE TORN DOWN?

I
CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE THIS LIBRARY.
I WANT TO TREASURE IT UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT.
Yes.
This man
Is a person who knows happiness.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BOOK?
I can help you.
NO, NOT A BOOK...
I'M LOOKING FOR A "PERSON"
A PERSON?
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
"HIRO NARUMI-KUN."
AS A CHILD
HE OFTEN FREQUENTED THIS LIBRARY...

I WAS THE ONE WHO ENCOURAGED
HIM TO DRAW.
15 years ago
I found...
a piece of Hiro-san's memory...!
HIRO-SAN WAS VERY GOOD AT DRAWING.
HIKARU-KUN...!
HIRO-KUN
YES. AND ALSO
YOU KNOW HIM TOO?
I KNOW THEM
I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK THIS PHOTO.

A WOMAN DROPS HIM OFF EVERY MONDAY...
HE'S HERE ALONE UNTIL CLOSING TIME AND THEN THE WOMAN PICKS HIM UP
OH MY.
THAT CHILD IS HERE AGAIN
THAT'S QUITE THE DIFFICULT BOOK YOU'RE READING.
CAN YOU READ THAT DIFFICULT KANJI?
startle
Amazing! Impressive
HM?
point
OHH.
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE ILLUSTRATIONS!
DO YOU LIKE LOOKING AT PICTURES?
shake
shake
shake
I SEE.
nod
nod
nod
nod
hahaha
THEN COME THIS WAY.
THERE ARE LOTS OF FOREIGN PICTURE BOOKS.
GASP

EH?
YOU'VE LOOKED AT ALL THESE PICTURE BOOKS?!
ADVENTURE
HMM... OTHER PICTURE BOOKS...
Yank
Yank
Eh?!
THE ART HISTORY
Monet
PRADO
You want those?!
BOOKS ON THAT SHELF?!
MODIGLIANI
KLIMT
SCHIELE
VERMEER
PIZARRO, GOGH
HE'S BECOMING A LITTLE ARTIST. ♡
so cute ♡
serious
HA HA HA

RENOIR!!
GAUGUIN?!
KLIMT!
THEY'RE ...
THEY'RE TOO GOOD ..!!!
DOOM
PICASSO!!!!
"MOM"
OHH! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!!
Scr Ittle Scr Ittle Scr Ittle
thump thump thump thump
We have plenty of RECYCLED PAPER!!
IS...HE A GENIUS...?!
Munch
HIRO-KUN!! DO YOU WANT TO DRAW MORE?!
To play?
SHE'S A DOCTOR
SOMETIMES SHE COMES OVER TO PLAY

OHH, THAT "BABA-SAN"?
He can waste kanji
Baba-san
Scribble
Scribble
Pachinko...?
BABA-SAN LIKES PACHINKO
She's there now
IS SHE YOUR GRANDMOTHER?
Hmm?
NO. THE HOUSE-KEEPER
"BABA-SAN."
YES.
THE LADY WHO ALWAYS PICKS YOU UP, RIGHT?
!!!!
Baba ?
HE... CERTAINLY HAS A COMPLICATED FAMILY
AND THIS IS
Scribble
Scribble
Scribble
HIKARU!!
MY BROTHER!!
HE LIVES IN A DIFFERENT HOUSE IN TOKYO.
...IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY ?
TADAH!!

A PRESENT FROM ME
TO YOU!!
PAINTS...
IT HAS 36 COLORS TOO...!!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A VERY QUIET BOY.
I WAS WRONG
YOUR PICTURES ARE VERY TALKATIVE.

I WANT TO HEAR MORE OF YOUR STORIES.
IT'S A GIFT OF WORDS FROM ME TO YOU.
THE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN, HEARD AND FELT.
I WANT TO SEE MORE OF YOUR ART.

DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL PRESENT A PROBLEM...!
TAKE IT BACK!!
OHH, BABA-SAN...
MOTHER IS ZEALOUS ABOUT EDUCATION
SHE ABSOLUTELY HATES IT WHEN OTHERS GET INVOLVED!!
SHE'LL BE FURIOUS WITH ME...!
OFFICE
HIRO-KUN GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY
PLEASE
LET'S GO HIRO-KUN!
I'M BEGGING YOU
DON'T TAKE AWAY THE WORDS FROM HIM
YOU'RE... OVER EXAGGERATING
SNIFF

HIRO-KUN
ISN'T VERY GOOD AT
EXPRESSING HIMSELF...
BUT
HIS DRAWINGS
TELL US
HOW HE SEES THE WORLD
COULDN'T YOU
AT LEAST TRY TO LISTEN TO HIS "WORDS"?
I'M...
JUST THE HIRED HELP...!
I'M... TIGHT ON MONEY...
I'M IN TROUBLE IF I LOSE THIS JOB!!
AND...
WHAT COULD I DO ABOUT IT...?!
HE ISN'T MY CHILD...
THAT'S TRUE
HIS MOTHER...
BUT IT ISN'T ABUSIVE...!
DEFINITELY HAS STRANGE EDUCATIONAL METHODS... IT'S LONELY.
BUT
WE'RE ALL
HUMANS

Blush
I BEG YOU.
IT CAN BE FOR FIVE MINUTES WHILE YOU HEAD TO PACHINKO.
PLEASE THINK
OF THE THINGS HE ENJOYS AND THE THINGS HE STRUGGLES WITH
IT'S A SMALL THING.
PLEASE THINK
OF HIS
PAIN AND HAPPINESS.
SOMETHING
YOU CAN DO.
THANKFULLY, HIS MOTHER
AFTER THAT BABA-SAN CONVINCED HIRO-KUN'S MOTHER
CONCLUDED IT WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A BAD INFLUENCE ON HIS EDUCATION
She isn't a bad person.

SHE PERMITTED
HIRO-KUN
TO DRAW.
IMMEDIATELY
HE BEGAN SPEAKING MORE
NOW !
IT WAS AROUND THEN
HIS LITTLE BROTHER, HIKARU-KUN FROM TOKYO
WOULD COME TO IBARAKI TO VISIT HIRO-KUN
HIRO-KUN WAS SO HAPPY TO BE REUNITED WITH HIKARU-KUN
AND HE WAS SO HAPPY
"DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR !!"

Isn't that amazing?!
SOMETIMES ON MONDAYS
WE'RE MEETING IN THIS LIBRARY!!
HE'LL COME TO [illegible]KI TO SEE ME...!!
EHH?! YOUR BROTHER?!
Isn't that amazing?!
HIKARU... CAME TO SEE ME...!!
REALLY ?!
It's great.
YEAH.
THAT'S GREAT.
I don't understand your situation much.
Punch
Punch
Punch
Punch
Waah!
Super awesome Hero-kun
I'M...A BIG BROTHER...!
yay
yay
Waah!!
Directors, please get back to work!
HIRO-KUN WAS BEING BULLIED AROUND THAT TIME
"BAD PEOPLE" ...?
I WON'T EVEN RUN AWAY FROM BAD PEOPLE...!!!
I'LL PROTECT HIKARU ..!

"WHAT.. WHAT WAS THAT FOR ..?!?"
KICK
IT WAS A GROUP OF BAD KIDS TWO YEARS OLDER
WHO WOULD SOMETIMES COME TO THE LIBRARY.
GULP
THIS IS OUR TURF!
HUH?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
Bwahaha
sniffle
sob sob
sniffle
sob sob
sniffle
sniffle
sniffle
... ...
PUNCH
never seen you before
HM? WHAT'S WITH THIS SQUIRT?
grab
DON'T... TOUCH HIKARU!!
SHOVE
NO...! NOT YET ...!
we should help!!
DIR... DIRECTOR ..!!
STAND UP, HIRO-KUN ...!!

UGH!
ACK
WH
HEY, YOU! IT'LL COST YOU IF YOU WANT TO PLAY HERE!!
grab
candy or gum.
BLO...
BLOOD !!!
I'M TELLING MY MOM ON YOU!!
HIKARU-KUN
WAS SMALL
waaah
dash

CHILDREN ARE AMAZINGLY SENSITIVE TO FEAR LIKE THAT.
HE DOESN'T FEAR PAIN
BUT HE DIDN'T HESITATE FOR A SECOND.
THE KIDS WHO PICKED ON HIRO-KUN DIDN'T BOTHER THEM
WHEN HIKARU WAS IN IBARAKI
Except this guy
HEY! YOU!!
PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAID SO!!!
Bwa ha ha ha ha
UH...
YOU DON'T HAVE A MOM OR DAD AT HOME!
I WAS A LITTLE AFRAID WHEN I SAW THAT.

Waaaah
whack
whack
whack
IDIOT
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT WANTED!
Dio!!
Bwahaha
SOMETIMES ... MOM COMES OVER TO PLAY...
NO MATTER THE SCHOOL YEAR
OR WHERE HE WENT
HIRO-KUN
WAS BULLIED.
EACH TIME
HIKARU-KUN CAME TO IBARAKI
HE'D RETALIATE INSTEAD OF HIRO-KUN
BEFORE WE KNEW IT
THEIR RELATIONSHIP HAD CHANGED
"SORRY I'M SORRY, HIKARU"
"IT'S BECAUSE OF ME"

I'M A GOOD FOR NOTHING...!
I'M A WEAKLING...
I... COULDN'T LIVE.
IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND
drip

drip
drip
drip
HIRO-KUN...
FOUND SOMEONE TO PROTECT HIM.
STOPPED COMING AROUND WHEN HE ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL.
FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS...
SOMETIMES HIRO-KUN WOULD COME ALONE...
HOW ARE THEY DOING NOW?
NARUMI, HIKARU-KUN
GREW UP TO BE A WOMANIZER ♡
hahaha
IT'S NOT FUNNY
REALLY...?
Seriously
AT FIRST IT WAS LIKE THE UNCONDITIONAL PROTECTION FROM A PARENT.
BUT HIKARU-KUN...

I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF HIM...
NARUMI
AT PRESENT, HE'S MISSING
WELL, IT'S BEEN A WEEK
hah
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!
haha
HIRO-SAN... MOVED AWAY A YEAR AGO
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE LIVES NOW?
IS THAT SO? I WAS UNAWARE
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM
WERE THE GROUP OF KIDS WHO BULLIED HIM
THEN PLEASE GIVE ME THEIR ADDRESSES!!
Hmm...
I don't think they know
I JUST MIGHT STUMBLE ACROSS HIM FROM ANY SMALL DETAIL...
I DON'T KNOW THEIR ADDRESSES
THEY NEVER TOOK OUT A BOOK.
They never even registered
BUT THEY WERE STUDENTS
AT THE MINAMI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE LEADER WAS
SAKATA KOUJI-KUN...
"KOUJI"
..
HE REALLY STOOD OUT.
Here's the address for the elementary school.
Sakata Kouji
Minami Elementary School
I THINK YOU'LL GET INFORMATION FROM ANYWHERE REALLY.
HE WAS A ROTTEN KID IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL...
.....
Even this
is a piece of Narumi.
I'M SORRY I CAN'T HELP YOU
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT

WHAT A RELIEF
I'M GLAD ...
ABOUT THEM.
TO KNOW SOMEONE CARES
I TREASURE
EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION
ABOUT NARUMI.
Hehe
I ENJOYED
HEARING YOUR STORY
I THINK
FOR SOMEONE
LOVE AND FEELINGS IN ANY SHAPE
IS BEAUTIFUL
NOW I'M ON A POSITIVE THINKING CAMPAIGN!!
Yeah!
You're already a creeper!!
Ahaha
PFFT
MIZUHO-SAN... ARE YOU HIKARU-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND?
NO
I'M JUST FIXATED ON HIM.
Ehehe
MAYBE HE FINDS ME ANNOYING?
IT'S DEFINITELY THAT HE MAKES ME MENTAL JUST THINKING ABOUT HIM
What's with you?
You're annoying! Annoying!
Annoying
Super annoying idiot.
Idiot

I BELIEVE THERE IS A TRACE
OF A PURE AND BEAUTIFUL HEART IN HIM.
WHETHER WARPED AND NOT RIGHT
OR HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE AND IS GREED DRIVEN
IT'S HUMAN INSTINCT
"TO LOVE SOMEONE."

PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE.
THAT'S LIFE.
WE DIDN'T OBTAIN MUCH INFORMATION
BUT I'M GLAD WE CAME
HE WAS A NICE MAN.

Surely
He spent much of his childhood alone.
It wasn't always unhappiness.
There were
for Hiro-san and Narumi.
definite people who cared
I want to believe that.
IT'S LATE. DO YOU WANT TO HEAD HOME?
WE CAN FIND KOUJI-KUN LATER.
MIZUHO
EH?!
YOU REALLY LIKE NARUMI-KUN, DON'T YOU?
WHEN YOU SAID HE WAS "PRECIOUS"
IT SURPRISED ME.

NO!
IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE HIM...
I PURPOSELY USED THAT..
I wanted to say something.
MIZUHO
EVERY FRIDAY DURING OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL
YOU LIED TO YOUR PARENTS TELLING THEM YOU WERE STUDYING WITH ME AT THE LIBRARY.
WHERE DID YOU REALLY GO?
EH?!
I RAN INTO YOUR MOM ON THE STREET ONE DAY AND SHE ASKED ME ABOUT IT...
"OH MY, REMI-CHAN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"
"EH...?"

"MIZUHO IS STUDYING ALONE AT THE LIBRARY TODAY."
"I W. SN'T FEELING WELL, SO I WENT HOME EARLY TODAY."
whoosh
"YEAH..."
"FRID YS AFTER SCHOOL..."
"YOU STUDY WITH MIZUHO AT THE LIBRARY, RIGHT?"
BUT I THINK SHE WAS SUSPICIOUS.
I TRIED TO COVER FOR YOU
". .IS THAT SO ?"
"MIZUHO, WHERE DO YOU GO AFTER SCHOOL EVERY FRIDAY?"
". I STUDY WITH A FRIEND FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THEIR HOUSE!"
Yeah.
You turn your phone off
THE SECRET YOU KEPT .
PFFT
WAS A BOY, RIGHT?!
THAT WAS A LIE, WASN'T IT?
I ASKED YOU ABOUT IT THE NEXT DAY.

AT THAT TIME...
WERE YOU REALLY SEEING NARUMI AFTER SCHOOL?
AM I WRONG?
.....
blush
UWAH!
SERIOUSLY?
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD YOU'RE SO FIXATED ON HIM
I FIGURED SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO IN HIGH SCHOOL
pout
YOU WERE DATING...
"NARUMI" OF ALL PEOPLE!
WE... WEREN'T DATING...
At that time
I was going to Narumi's house.
I lied to my parents.
"I'M GOING TO STUDY WITH REMI AT THE LIBRARY."
I see ♡

Hmph...
YOU PRETENDED TO NOT BE INTERESTED IN ROMANCE
THAT'S TRUE...
I'M... SORRY, REMI
YOU'RE WRONG!
AT THAT TIME...
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...
IT'S OKAY.
I thought my friends would scorn me
so I never told anyone.
My relationship with Narumi
was too vague.
I wasn't confident in my own actions.
I felt guilty.
I NEVER KNEW.
YOU DIDN'T TALK TO ANYONE EITHER.
I'M NOT ANGRY
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS THAT...
REMI!
ANYWAYS

WHY IS IT
I'M SORRY
WHY?
DID...
I SAY
SOMETHING MEAN AGAIN?
I
WHEN
I'M WITH YOU
FEEL SUPER LONELY SOMETIMES?

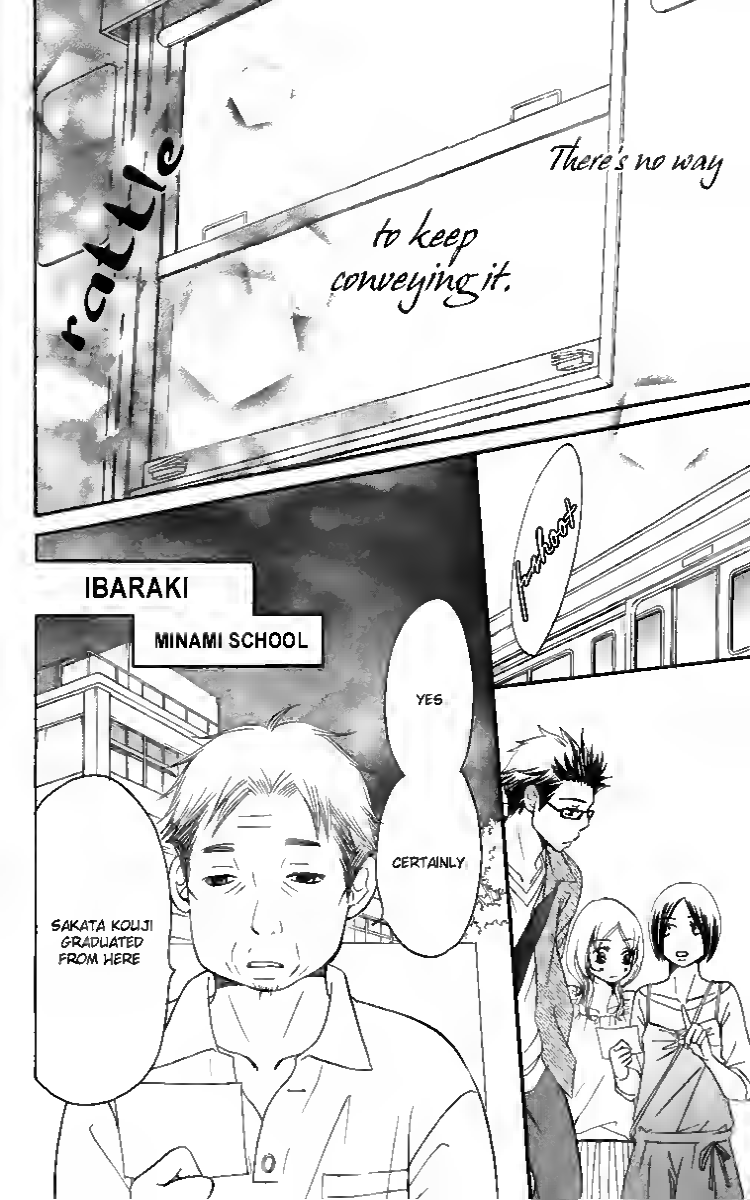
TALK ABOUT IT...
I'M SORRY
DON'T
HEH
I'LL CALL YOU ...!
REMI
I'M SORRY FOR INVITING MYSELF TODAY.
WELL
she never said a word.
rattle
Until
Remi got off the train

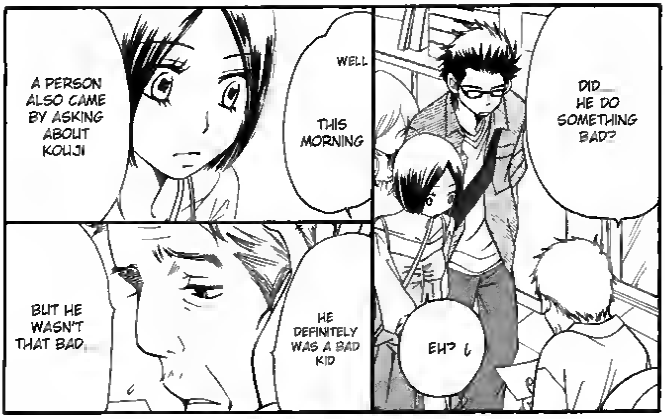
...!
HMM
THEN
THIS SATURDAY
LET'S GO TO FIND THAT GUY "KOUJI".
WE'LL TRY THE ELEMENTARY
Maybe we can talk to them.
THERE WILL BE TEACHERS WORKING ON SATURDAY.
I'LL INVITE SETOUCHI SAN TOO ARE YOU LISTENING, SUGA?
AH...
SURE...!
WHAT'S WRONG? STILL CAN'T GET A HOLD OF NARUMI?
YEAH
IT'S THAT TOO, BUT...
THERE ...
ARE A LOT THINGS I DIDN'T NOTICE
AND A LOT OF THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW

I was objectively
observing my surroundings
and it embarrasses me
I'M A LITTLE...
DIZZY FROM MY OWN STUPIDITY.
SO YOU DIDN'T KNOW
that I didn't know.
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT, RIGHT?
?
I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU...
HELLO?
AM I WRONG?
...YES...
Right
Yes
I want to know.

I want to know her thoughts
I want to love someone as deeply as Origuchi-san!
and his feelings.
I want to know why I can't control my emotions
and what it's like to be in love.
Everything.

NARUMI
CONNECTING TO VOICEMAIL
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...
I want to know it all.
NISHIDA REMI
IS UNAVAILABLE OR THE POWER IS OFF...
THE NUMBER YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH
TO Nishida Remi
Soon
I want to talk I'll call you again
-END-
beep beep
Time and again I continually gave it to Rumi.
BY BOTH OF THEM.
IT'S HARD BEING REJECTED
SHOCKED...
the number.
This feeling of rejection...
I don't know if my words reached her at all.
please
beep
SEND!


rattle
There's no way
to keep
conveying it.
IBARAKI
MINAMI SCHOOL
SAKATA KOUJI GRADUATED FROM HERE
CERTAINLY
YES
Ba-bump
Ba-bump


A PERSON ALSO CAME BY ASKING ABOUT KOUJI
WELL THIS MORNING
DID... HE DO SOMETHING BAD?
BUT HE WASN'T THAT BAD...
HE DEFINITELY WAS A BAD KID
EH? (

SHE WASN'T FAT THOUGH.
Raw ?
SHE WAS CLEAN CUT WITH SPARKLY EYELASHES, NAILS AND LIPS...
It can't be... (
kids these days are so gaudy
OH, I DIDN'T GET THE NAME
WHO CAME BY ASKING FOR HIM...?
SHE SAID SHE WAS A FRIEND OF KOUJI AND WAS TRYING TO GET A HOLD OF HIM
SHE WAS A PLUMP GIRL...
KOUJI...
HE MOVED AWAY WHEN HIS MOTHER REMARRIED
I GAVE HER TWO OR THREE OTHER CLASSMATE NAMES... BUT NOT THE ADDRESSES.
DOESN'T LIVE IN IBARAKI ANYMORE

LMM.. DO YOU THINK
THIS IS PERSON WHO CAME TO SEE YOU...?
BEEP
...
?
WHAT IS IT?
who is it?
EVEN US TEACHERS THESE DAYS
NEED TO REQUEST "PERSONAL INFORMATION"
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
ohh, come to think of it, kouji
THAT'S HER.
YES.
WHY?!
I...DON'T KNOW...
EH...?
WHAT? ARE YOU GUYS FRIENDS?
NISHIDA-SAN?!

EH...? SHE'S YOUR FRIEND?
THE GIRL WHO CAME WITH YOU TO IBARAKI THE OTHER DAY?!
A FRIEND OF KOUJI?
what does that mean?
WASN'T SHE TRYING TO HELP YOU...?
?
SHE KEPT IT SECRET FROM YOU?!
"LET'S FIND HIM TOGETHER!"
Then suddenly she wants to help.
refused to find Origuchi-san's ex-boyfriend?
She more or less
"IT'S INSENSITIVE"
"AND MEDDLING."
"END OF STORY."
There are reasons why people do things.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!
I SAID I DON'T KNOW!!

We're friends ...!
HOW DO YOU NOT KNOW?!
YOU'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?!
Remi
And...?
is cheerful
a mood maker
funny
and always laughing
"LISTEN UP, MIZUHO!"
but we're always together
and we always talk about trivial things.

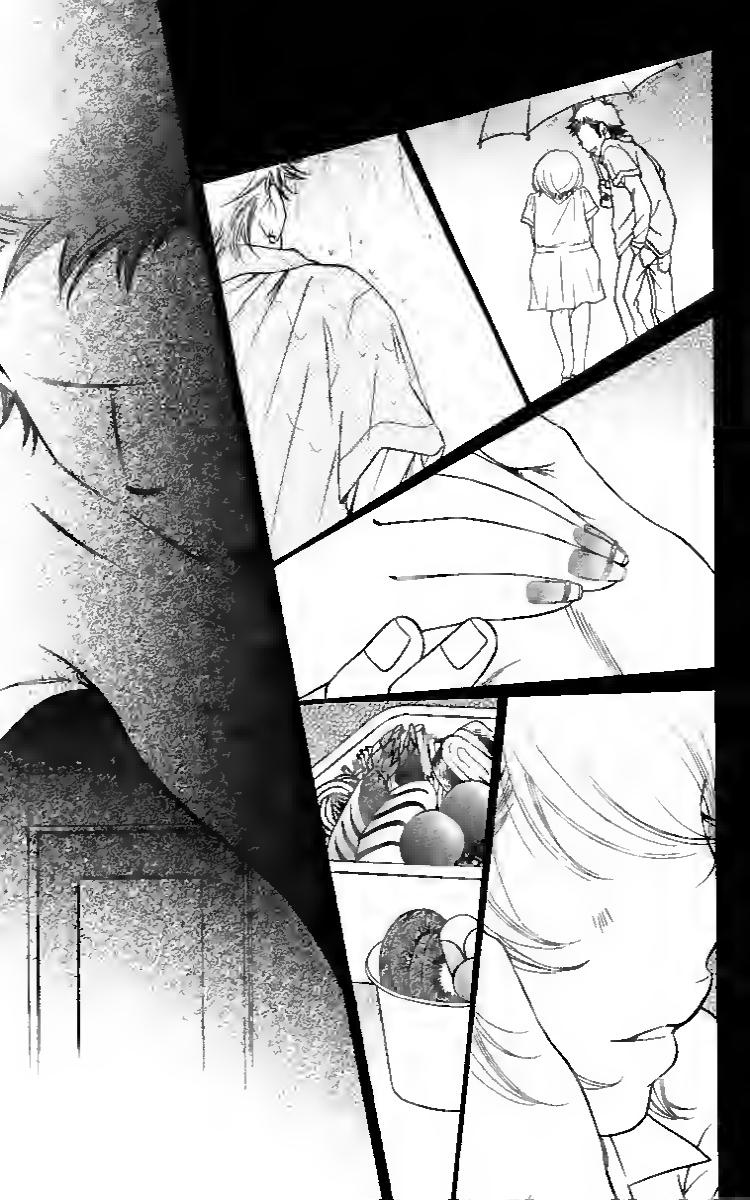
I don't know
What she's worried about.
Who she loves.
Who she hates.
When she cries.
anything about Remi.

I never tried to know.
No.
Her pain and misery
couldn't reach my heart.
"I WANT A CONNECTION BETWEEN US."
"I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS FEELINGS BETWEEN US."
"IT IS SAD AND PATHETIC."

I should have known.
PLEASE
TELL ME THE NAMES OF KOUJI'S CLASSMATES!!
THE NAMES YOU GAVE TO THAT GIRL!!
EH?
ERMM
YAMANE NAOKI AND MAEKAWA KENJI
AND
All along I only thought of myself.
ZAAAH
DRP
AH...
EXCUSE ME! DOES NAOKI-SAN LIVE THERE?
HELLO?
THIS IS YAMANE
Yamane Naoki Maekawa K
IS THAT SO...?
NO, I WAS MISTAKEN.
I'M SORRY.
CLACK

IS THAT SO?
HELLO?
I'M SORRY, WRONG NUMBER.
IS NAOKI-SAN THERE...?
CLACK
WAIT UP!
HONESTLY!

HELLO?
IS NAOKI-SAN...



HELLO. THIS IS YAMANE.
NAOKI IS HERE...
YES.
CLACK
YAMANE
HUH?!
KOUJI?!

SHOVE
I SAID GET LOST!
SPLASH
I DON'T KNOW
I HUNG OUT WITH HIM A LONG TIME AGO!
ANYTHING AT ALL YOU KNOW WOULD BE GREAT!
EHH?!
THE POOR THING.
She's soaked
BY THE WAY, WHO'S THE GIRL?
DID YOU MAKE OUT WITH HER?!
Big sister
NO, YOU IDIOT!

"NO MATTER YOUR BODY"
"I KNOW YOU'LL BE PRECIOUS TO SOMEONE."
"THAT'S WHAT BEAUTY IS"
"AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK."
I'D NEVER
AM
SL
ASK OUT A FATTY LIKE HER!

"EVEN WARPED AND NOT PROPER"
"THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A THREAD OF PURE AND BEAUTIFUL FEELINGS."
"EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER"
"I BELIEVE THIS."
"AND SMEARED WITH GREED"

"IT'S HUMAN INSTINCT"
"TO LOVE SOMEONE."

Why Remi...?
DID...
REMI COME TO VISIT?!
DID SHE COME...
TO THIS ELEMENTARY IN IBARAKI?!
Sakata Kouji
Minami E
IS SHE LOOKING FOR "SAKATA KOUJI"?!
Story 11

Story11

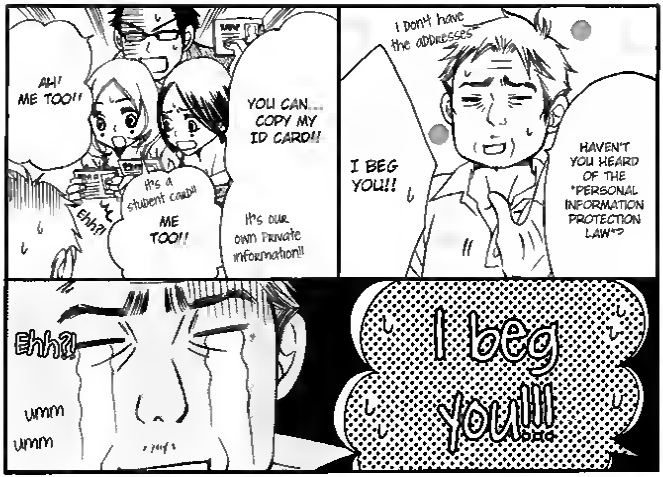
A former high school classmate died at 19 years old.
I've started a search for Origuchi Haruka's ex-boyfriend.
The former boyfriend is Narumi's older brother
Hikaru 6
Hiro 7
I'm convinced it's Narumi Hiro.
To ascertain the truth
I went to Ibaraki to find Hiro-san.
"IT SEEMS... HIRO-SAN MOVED AWAY A YEAR AGO."
"DO YOU KNOW... HIS CURRENT ADDRESS?"
"DO I...? I DON'T REALLY KNOW."
"THE ONLY PEOPLE I KNOW OF WHO KNEW HIRO-KUN... WERE BULLIES TO HIM."
The only clue to finding Hiro-san
were the bullies who picked on him when he was a child.

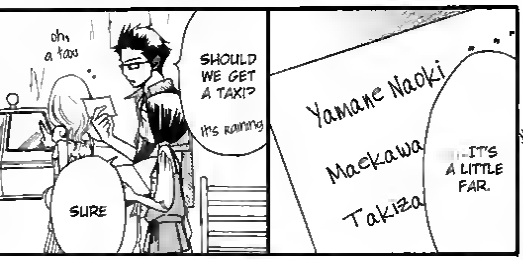
The leader was
Sakata Kouji.
I visited the elementary school... in Ibaraki that Kouji attended.
"SAKATA KOUJI GRADUATED FROM HERE."
"YES, DEFINITELY."
"DID HE... DO SOMETHING WRONG?"
"ANOTHER PERSON... CAME BY THIS MORNING LOOKING FOR HIM. IS WELL."
"EH?"
"SHE SAID SHE WAS KOUJI'S FREIND AND WANTED TO CONTACT HIM."
"SHE WAS QUITE THE PLUMP GIRL..."
"YES "
"THAT'S THE GIRL "
Remi? She's looking for "Kouji"?
Why?!

As far as I know
Rena and Origuchi-san
shared nothing in common besides being former classmates.
"MIZUHO, DO YOU REMEMBER ORIGUCHI HARUKA?"
"SHE WAS OUR CLASSMATE IN HIGH SCHOOL."
"I HEARD... SHE DIED?"
"DID SHE LIKE ANYONE? OR HAVE A BOYFRIEND?"
"I HAVE NO IDEA THOUGH."
"IT WOULDN'T BE UNUSUAL."
"EH? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ORIGUCHI-SAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND?"
COFFEE
"NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT!"
They weren't friends
but she didn't dislike her.

I don't get it.
WHERE DID THAT GIRL... NISHIDA REMI GO?!
I TOLD YOU SHE WENT TO FIND KOUJI
But why is Remi now on the hunt for Origuchi -san's old boy friend?
I GAVE HER TWO OR THREE NAMES OF KOUJI'S FRIENDS
I don't know the addresses!
BUT YOU KNOW KOUJI'S MOTHER REMARRIED ...AND LEFT IBARAKI
I'm her friend and I don't know anything
THOSE... FRIENDS OF KOUJI...
PLEASE GIVE US THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES ...!!

Piece⑤


AH! ME TOO!!
YOU CAN... COPY MY ID CARD!!
It's a student card!
ME TOO!!
Ehh?
It's our own private information!!
I don't have the addresses
I BEG YOU!!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE "PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION LAW"?
Ehh?
umm
umm
I beg YOU!!!


oh, a taxi
SHOULD WE GET A TAXI?
It's raining
SURE
Yamane Naoki
Mackawa
Takizawa
...IT'S A LITTLE FAR.

VROOOM
SHUT
EXCUSE ME, TAKE US TO THIS ADDRESS
Please
You got it!

Don't use it for strange things!
I'll get fixed otherwise!

What should I do?
I have no self-confidence.
ZAAAH
DING DONG
YAMANE
"SOMETIMES I FEEL REALLY SAD."
"WHEN I'M WITH YOU"
I said he was my friend.
but I don't know anything about Rena.
It's only natural she'd reject me.
"I'M SORRY."
"DON'T TALK!!"
How many truths
have I overlooked?

CLACK
EXCUSE ME...!
DOES YAMANE NAOKI LIVE HERE...?
NAOKI IS MY LITTLE BROTHER.
He's here
DID
THIS GIRL COME BY TO SEE NAOKI-SAN TODAY?!
YEAH
I KNEW IT...
SHE DID! SHE CAME HERE!!
NAOKI!!!
WHACK
Yamane Naoki
WHAT
DO YOU WANT?!!
THEY SAY THEY'RE FRIENDS OF THAT GIRL YOU DID SOMETHING TO HER, DIDN'T YOU?
NO!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!!
Did you sleep with her and ditch her?!

I knew it
Remi is looking for "Kouji".
AND?
WHERE DID SHE GO?!
I HUNG AROUND HIM AGES AGO! I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW!!
THAT GIRL KEPT PESTERING ME ABOUT HIM
IT'S KOUJI!! THAT GIRL CAME LOOKING FOR KOUJI!!
KOUJI..
THE PUNK KID YOU USED TO HANG AROUND WITH?
KOUJI?
NISHIDA REMI
090XXXXXXX
beep
THE NUMBER YOU DIALED
HAS THE POWER SWITCHED OFF...
.....
CLACK
beep beep beep
.....
SHE WAS OUT OF IT
I DON'T KNOW. SHE STUMBLED OFF TOWARDS THE TRAIN STATION. MAYBE SHE GAVE UP AND WENT HOME?
!!!!
SHUT UP! SHUT YOUR MOUTH, NEE-CHAN!!
THE POOR THING WAS COVERED IN MUD.
YOU SHOVED HER.
.....

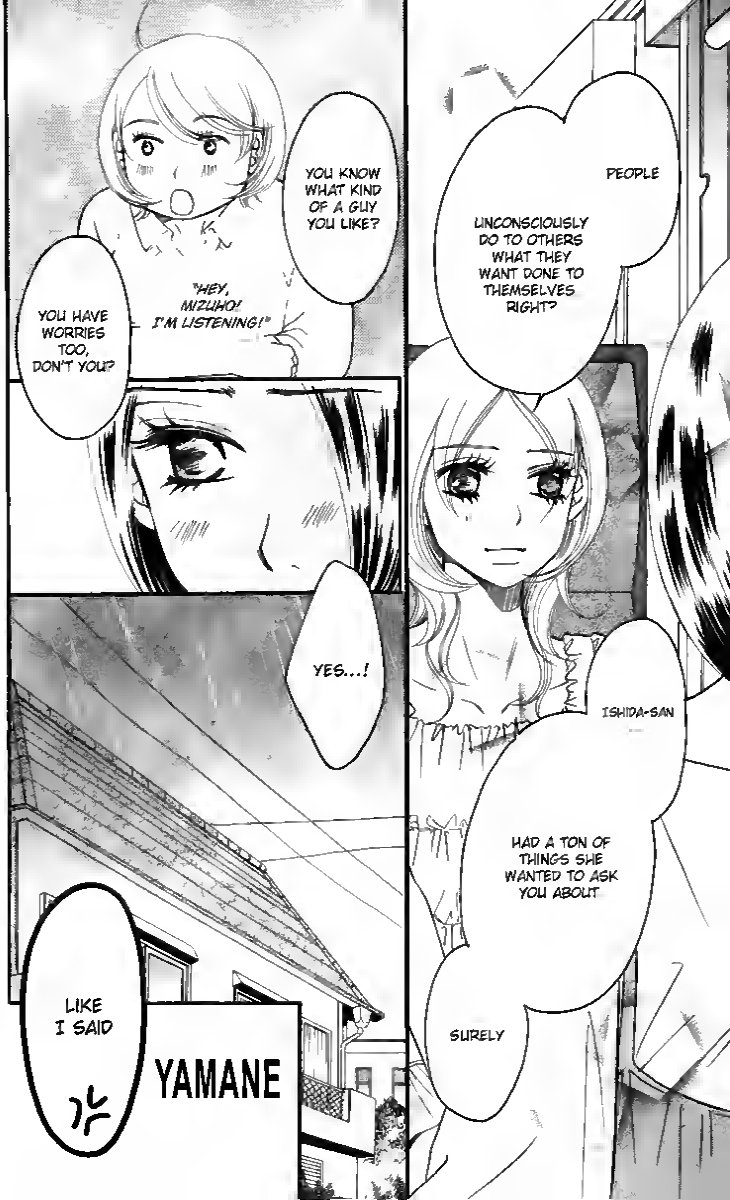
HEY!
SUGA!
...I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY WE BOTHERED YOU
BEEP
....
EXCUSE ME.
EH?
CAN I ASK SOMETHING OF YOU?
I WANT TO GO BACK TO TOKYO
I NEED TO FIND REM!
I DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER...
I'M SORRY WE CAME TO IBARAKI TO FIND "KOUJI"
SURE.

SURE.
WE UNDERSTAND
SETOUCHI-SAN YOU GO WITH SUGA.
I'LL STAY AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KOUJI
IT'S OKAY I CAN GO ALONE.
SUGA-SAN
YOU CAN RELY ON OTHERS
YOU'RE A STRONG PERSON
BUT
IT WOULD PLEASE ME FOR YOU TO RELY ON ME.
AND MAYBE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN
IT'S SAD YOU CAN'T
RELY ON A BOY YOU LIKE OR A BEST FRIEND.
I THINK
YOU WANT TO RELY ON OTHERS TOO.
SHOW A BIT OF WEAKNESS
COME ON.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY THINKING, "SHE RELIES AND TRUSTS IN ME."
Hehe.
I'M A SIMPLE PERSON

"DO YOU WANT TO FALL IN LOVE?"
"OR DO YOU WANT TO BE LOVED?"
"WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITY?! WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE HOTTEST IN OUR CLASS?!"
"HEY, HEY! WHY KIND OF GUY DO YOU LIKE?"
I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD WITH THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS.
rattle
I HONESTLY WAS ANNOYED.
rattle
WHEN WE MET REMI OFTEN ASKED ME...
have a boy or celebrity that I like.
Because I don't
Haah
BOYS
"SUGA-SAN IS SECRETIVE."
Hmph.
But when I was honest
They say it with sarcasm.
It's been that kind of pattern since elementary school.

Remi looked displeased at this
"I LIKE KIND MEN AND ALL THE BETTER IF HE'S TALL."
HMMM
that so?
It became a habit to lie.
"All women live romance."
Fortune
Personality Test
LOVE FORTUNE
and ignored Remi's displeasure
EARLIER IN CLASS
but I pretended to be insensitive
Who decided that?
"IF SOMETHING IS BOTHERING YOU, I'LL LISTEN!!"
You would feel better if you talked about it
but I didn't have any worries to talk about.
She said that
"YEAH..."
"THEY'RE NORMAL..."
"HMMM..."
"LISTEN"
"MEGU-CHIN SAYS HER PARENTS DON'T GET ALONG."
"THAT MUST BE HARD, HUH?"
"EH?"
"WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOME LIFE?"
"DO YOUR PARENTS GET ALONG?"

Remi always wanted to be best friends.
She wanted to talk about everything and know everything.
A best friend like on a teen drama.
Before I knew it
Remi stopped asking me questions like that.
THE OTHER DAY
Even when my feelings wavered for Narumi.
I felt guilty for not telling Remi.
REMI TOLD ME
"SOMETIMES I FEEL REALLY SAD WHEN I'M WITH YOU."
IT MADE ME CRINGE.
BUT NOW
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO FEEL SORRY.
...YEAH. I CAN UNDERSTAND ISHIDA-SAN'S FEELINGS...


PEOPLE UNCONSCIOUSLY DO TO OTHERS WHAT THEY WANT DONE TO THEMSELVES RIGHT?
ISHIDA-SAN HAD A TON OF THINGS SHE WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT
SURELY
YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF A GUY YOU LIKE?
"HEY, MIZUHO! I'M LISTENING!"
YOU HAVE WORRIES TOO, DON'T YOU?
YES...!
LIKE I SAID
YAMANE

HOW LONG DID YOU KNOW HIM AND WHEN DID YOU LOSE TOUCH WITH HIM?
EXPLAIN IT TO ME IN EXACT CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW
YOU'RE A PAIN!!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE KOUJI IS!!
DO YOU ALWAYS ASK PEOPLE FOR THINGS WITH AN ATTITUDE?!!!
come on now
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD.
I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS WHERE KOUJI IS
I REALLY
IT'S NO USE.
AH!
I'm SORRY!
dash
wait!
escape
yank
ANYWAYS!!
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THOSE GUYS!!!

? WHY...?
BUT THEY SUDDENLY STOPPED HANGING OUT AFTER ENTERING MIDDLE SCHOOL
Who knows
MAYBE THEY HAD A FIGHT
KOUJI WAS THE LEADER AND HE A FOLLOWER
THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS AS KIDS.
WELL AS FOR "GOOD FRIENDS"...
DO THESE PEOPLE STILL LIVE AT THESE ADDRESSES?
THEN... I'LL TRY TRACKING DOWN THE OTHER FRIENDS
Anyways
I THINK IT'S A WASTE OF TIME
Got any other clues?
IS THAT SO...?
Maekawa Kenji
Takizawa Yuki
Kido Junpei
Kido Jund
AH! KIDO!
KIDO WORKS AT A CONVENIENCE STORE IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION!!
MAEKAWA... I WONDER IF HE MOVED AWAY... WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKIZAWA? HMM...

DOES KIDO JUNPEI WORK. .
EXCUSE ME. .

HUH?
SCARY!!!

I'M KIDO.
EEEK!
HE'S A DELINQUENT!
HE'S SCARY.
HOWEVER
DON'T CHICKEN OUT!!!
You're a chicken, Sorra.
AH...
I'M NOT A SUSPICIOUS GUY...!!!

NICE TO MEET YOU
BOW
I'M YANAI TAKASHI AND I'VE COME FROM TOKYO.
I'M LOOKING FOR A PERSON...
A PERSON?
YES. A MAN BY THE NAME OF "NARUMI HIRO"...
NARUMI ...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM

I FOLLOWING UP ON YOUR NAME THAT I GOT...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS...
That is,
AS A CLUE TO HIRO-SAN.
AS A CHILD
That is,
I GOT INFORMATION STATING...
YOU WERE A FOLLOWER OF "SAKATA KOUJI" AND USED TO BULLY "NARUMI HIRO".
I FEEL I'M GRASPING AT STRAWS HERE.
ANYWAYS
DO YOU KNOW WHERE "HIRO-SAN" IS?
OR "SAKATA KOUJI"—?
EITHER ONE WILL DO.
I NEED TO CONTACT THEM NEXT
PLEASE
KIDO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SORRY

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK
AH..! I'M SORRY ...!!
CAN YOU WAIT AN HOUR?
I'LL GO WHEN I'M ON BREAK. WAIT IN THE BACK PARKING LOT
I'm sorry!
AH..! OKAY!!!
You're blocking customers there
HE..IS SURE IS NICE
I should-n't judge a person by their looks.
HOWEVER..I HAVE TIME TO KILL
An hour?
SUGA

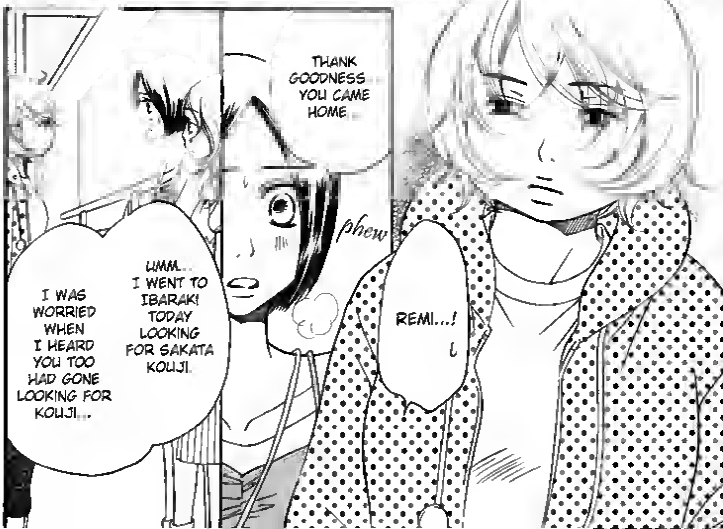
I WONDER IF SHE'S IN TOKYO
honk
Tokyo

MOO-
-OOM!
507
NISHIDA
OSAMU HARUMI
REMI RYOUTA
RUMI HARUNA
GIVE RUMI HER PUDDING BACK!
I wrote my name on it!
ONII-CHAN ATE MY PUDDING!
KYAAH!
KYAAH!
SERIOUSLY! KNOCK IT OFF YOU TWO!
thud
SHUT UP, CHEAPSKATE! STUPID RUMI!!
....
GWaaah
ding dong
Ryouta, turn the tv off!
STUPID mom!
ehhhh
....
SHUT UP

YOU HAVE COMPANY.
REMI-CHAN
REMI-CHAN
shake
shake
WHO?
SUGA-SAN.
...TELL HER I'M NOT HOME.
I CAN'T! I ALREADY TOLD HER YOU'RE HERE!
Get up, Remi-chan!
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE CAME HOME DRENCHED AND MUDDY. WHEN I ASKED WHAT HAPPENED SHE SNAPPED, "I FELL!! LEAVE ME ALONE!!"
REMI! SUGA-SAN AND SETOUCHI-SAN ARE HERE!
...
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HER!
Honestly!
HURRY UP AND GET OUT HERE!!
Remi

Remi!!!
Why does mom always share unnecessary things?
....
HOW EMBARRASSING!
ugh
geh!
WHAT A HIDEOUS FACE...!!
How unbecoming of me!!
She's noisy messy and rude.
Our house
screams poor..
Remi!
I'LL FIX MY MAKE-UP ..!!
rustle
rustle
rustle
.....

Who cares what Mizuho or Setouchi-san think.
CLACK
Well
Who cares.
AH...
CLACK
It doesn't matter.


THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME HOME...
phew
I WAS WORRIED WHEN I HEARD YOU TOO HAD GONE LOOKING FOR KOUJI...
UMM... I WENT TO IBARAKI TODAY LOOKING FOR SAKATA KOUJI.
REMI...!

I DIDN'T GO TO IBARAKI TODAY.
EH?
BUT...
I WENT SHOPPING THIS MORNING
I CAME HOME AND TOOK A NAP
THAT'S IT
IT STARTED TO RAIN
I GOT DEPRESSED WHEN I FELL
DID... SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I W...S WORRIED ...
ARE YOU OKAY?
OR RATHER...
YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME.
EH?!
YOU TWO ARE GETTING ALONG WELL
Mizuho and Setouchi-san
YEAH... I GUESS.

I
THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED IN ANYONE
AM I WRONG?
WHEN YOU ARE INTERESTED
LIKE WITH NARUMI, YANAI-SENPAI AND SETOUCHI-SAN
THEY'RE SPECIAL PEOPLE
WHO STAND OUT IN SCHOOL.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH ME.
DON'T FORCE YOURSELF
ON MY ACCOUNT.
DON'T FORCE INTEREST IN ME

SLAM
BYE.
YOU'RE ...
NOT INTERESTED IN ME.
I'VE KNOWN
FOR A LONG TIME.
REMI!
YOUR FRIENDS CAME ALL THIS WAY...!
Was you really my daughter?!
WHAT'S WITH YOUR ATTITUDE?!!
YOU LET THEM IN!!
Serve them juice at least!!
JUST STOP IT...!!

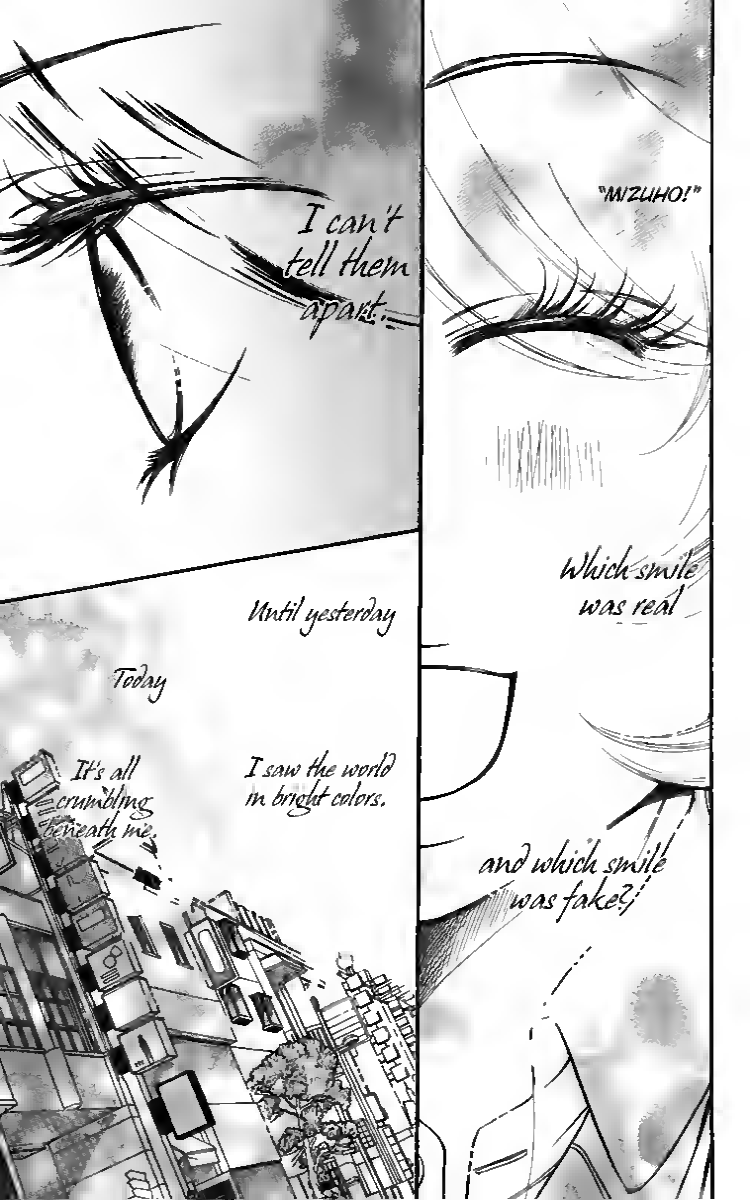
DONG
ohh.
PLEASE...!
STOP...
Ehh?!
Mom, she's crying.
She's crying.

Yamane Naoki
I've got nothing to do with it!
A good for nothing with ramen for brains who was a follower in Kouji's punk gang as a kid.
OKAY?!
WE...
CAN COME AGAIN.
...YEAH.
right
I KNOW A DELICIOUS PLACE!
THAT'S RIGHT!
LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING SWEET!

THIS IS AMAZING!!
It's the best!
UWAH! AMAZING!!
I'm bewitched
I'm so happy
"SO THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T GET FAT, MIZUHO"
I admire you.
"MUST BE NICE! I'M SO JEALOUS!"
"EHHH?! WOMEN WHO HATE FRESH CREAM EXIST IN THE WORLD?!!"
"I DON'T LIKE IT."
fresh cream
Shocked
"EHH?! MIZUHO, WHY CAN'T YOU EAT FRESH CREAM?!"
It's just a scone without fresh cream!!
"QUIT IT!!"
I'll eat it for you
SMACK!
"THEN YOU SHOULDN'T EAT IT EITHER."
SIMPLY FLOUR!

LET'S COME AGAIN!
AHH! THAT WAS DELICIOUS ♡
SURE
CAFE SWEETS
"SO DELICIOUS!" ♡
"IT'S FATTENING, BUT OH SO DELICIOUS!" ♡♡
SETOUCHI-SAN
THANK YOU
I'm so happy ♡

ZAAAH
"I WAS A LITTLE JEALOUS OF YOU."
"I"
"YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ME."
"I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME."
"MIZUHO!"
"WHEN I'M WITH YOU"
"MIZUHO! MIZUHO!"
"HEY, LISTEN TO THIS, MIZUHO!"
"REALLY LIKED YOU A LOT."
"SOMETIMES I FEEL REALLY SAD."


I can't tell them apart.
"MIZUHO!"
Which smile was real
Until yesterday
Today
It's all crumbling beneath me.
I saw the world in bright colors.
and which smile was fake?

My "feelings"
I have no self-confidence.
are surprisingly fragile.

I don't have the courage
to believe in the world I see now.

shake
shake
shake
beep
.....
NARUMI
090XXXXXXX
beep
beep
NARUMI
...
Someone...
"TRY TO DOUBTING"
"YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE MORE."
.....
"IF YOU LOSE FAITH IN YOUR JUDGEMENT, DROP BY ANYTIME."

PLEASE! ANSWER ...!!
CONNECTING TO VOICEMAIL
.....
LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...
Argh
WHERE IS HE AND WHAT IS HE DOING ?!!!
WHY WON'T HE ANSWER ?!!
STOMP
I haven't been able to contact him for ten days.
"SUGA-CHAN!"
I want
to hear his voice.
"YOUR CURRY HAS NO FLAVOR."

I want my body temperature to rise.
I want to touch him.
I want to hear his abusive speech.
to fight with him like children
and to sleep next to him.

I want to feel
his whole body
I want my heart to race.
I want to... feel the sensation
with my ears, eyes and skin.
of his flesh and skin
I want to make sure.

I want to
see him.

Ibaraki
AH
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
rustle
IT'S OKAY
HERE.
KOUJI'S CURRENT ADDRESS
Sakaha Kouji
EH...?
I DON'T KNOW "NARUMI HIRO'S" LOCATION
WHAT'S WITH THE FACE?
Do you not want it?
AH...!
NOTHING!
I need it!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A LONG TIME

I DIDN'T... THINK YOU WOULD TELL ME SO EASILY.
I WENT TO "YAMANE NAOKI" EARLIER AND HE DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE AT ALL...
Yuuji Sakata
Aichi prefecture
Nagoya
geh
that's far!
NAGOYA?!
YEAH WELL, YAMANE
He's small minded
WAS SCARED OF KOUJI FROM THE START, SO HE RAN OFF.
FLICK
YEAH, HIS SISTER SAID THAT TOO.
she said they don't hang out
DID THEY HAVE A FIGHT?
Hmm
FIGHT? WHO KNOWS.
KOUJI
CHANGED
AFTER MEETING NARUMI AND TSURUMI

HE UPGRADED TO A BUM.
HE WAS JUST A "PUNK KID."
HANG ON A MINUTE.
NO...
I'm confused
Narumi Hikaru?
BY "NARUMI" ...YOU MEAN HIRO-SAN?
Eh?!
NARUMI... "NARUMI HIKARU" PROTECTED HIRO-SAN FROM KOUJI'S ANTAGONIZING, DIDN'T HE?
Sob
HIRO
HIKARU
KOUJI
spark
spark
spark
"SAKATA KOUJI"... BULLIED NARUMI'S BIG BROTHER "NARUMI HIRO" ...
HIS YOUNGER BROTHER
NARUMI HIKARU.
SO HE MADE FRIENDS WITH HIM
WHERE HE COULD KEEP HIM UNDERFOOT.
AND YET THEY "HUNG OUT"?
Eh?!
HE COULDN'T ACCEPT HIKARU.
KOUJI NEVER FORGAVE HIM.
Too much hate

A LONG TIME AGO
HIKARU
ALMOST KILLED A GUY.
BUT PEOPLE
DRAW IN EACH OTHER'S
BAD QUALITIES.
HIKARU
WAS BY FAR WORSE
THAN KOUJI

Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi
Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi
Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi ...
HE'S COMPLETELY NUTS.

beep
HELLO, SUGA-CHAN?
HELLO ?
MY PHONE
Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi
UWAH... I FELL ASLEEP
WHAT TIME IS IT?
NARUMI
090XXXXXXX
IT'S ME.

my chest felt hollow.
DO YOU...
KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS...?
WHY WAS YOUR PHONE OFF?!
thump
I was anxious
NA...
NARUMI ...?
WHERE ARE YOU?!
YES, IT'S ME
YEAH
I'M SORRY SUGA-CHAN
COUGH
I MIGHT NOT MAKE IT.
I MIGHT BE DYING.

SLAM
SLAM
BANG
NAGOYA !!
HURRY UP!!!
one PLEASE!!
WHOOOOSH
名古屋
なごや
Nagoya
NAGOYA NAGOYA
SUGA-CHAN!!

stumble
NA..!
NARUMI ...!
THE AFTERLIFE
SUGA ...
NARUMI ...!
CHICKEN WINGS AND UDON..
I NEED LOTS OF...
IN MY STOMACH

Munch
Munch
Munch

I GOT OFF THE SHINKANSEN
AND USED UP ALL MY MONEY
GOING HERE AND THERE
I thought I'd die of hunger.
For these ten days
WHEN I GOT ON THE TRAIN
I FELT SUDDENLY CHEERFUL.
LIKE THE TIME YOU AND I TOOK THE TRAIN
FOR A ONE NIGHT GETAWAY
He is a liar, irresponsible and selfish.
He has no common sense
and can't develop an honest relationship.
This guy
I will never know that.
I fought the anxieties going thru my head
and frantically tried to get a hold of my emotions.

KYAAH
Thud
HERE'S YOUR MISO UDON.
Extra Large!!
I say, I don't expect anything from this guy.
But I'm disappointed and angry with myself.
Grab
slurp
slurp
slurp
slurp
Munch Munch Munch Munch
DON'T
EAT MY CHICKEN WINGS!
But
slurp
DON'T
EAT SOMEONE ELSE'S UDON!!?
I decided to get "involved" with this man.
新幹線
Shinkansen
HERE'S SOME MONEY

GEH!
I WITHDREW IT
I'VE BEEN SAVING IT SINCE I WAS A KID.
WHAT'S WITH THE WAD OF CASH...?
Gigolo
I DIDN'T
I'M NOT GIVING IT TO YOU
YOU'RE TO PAY IT BACK
tell you to give me cash
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY IT ALL BACK, INCLUDING THE MEAL WE JUST HAD!!
PRESS YOUR THUMB HERE!!
Loan
I HAVE
IT'S 10% INTEREST EVERY TEN DAYS.
Loan
PRESS
My thumb print ?
NO RIGHT TO BIND YOU.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY WHILE TRAVELING
10%?!!!
ARE YOU A LOAN SHARK ?!!

I wanted to see him
one way or another.
WELL
I'M GOING HOME.
I'll be waiting
YOU CAN'T EVER
BUT YOU MUST COME BACK.
If I'm
with him any longer
Loan
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU RUN AWAY
my emotions will explode.
SEVER TIES
WITH ME.
est
I'LL HIRE A LAWYER
AND TRACK YOU DOWN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
SUGA-CHAN.

15 14
SHINKANSEN ALREADY LEAVE?
DIDN'T THE LAST
.....
.....
.....
.....
LOVE HOTEL?
HOW EMBARRASSING.
KYAAH
DEFINITELY NOT.
I had to mom.
NOW THEN
WHERE SHOULD WE STAY?
I'M STAYING OVER A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
HELLO? MOM?
Munch Munch Munch
YES FROM COLLEGE.
Again
SURE
I'M OKAY
SORRY.

AFTER ALL
WE HAVE TO SHARE THE SAME ROOM.
I TOLD YOU
NO LOVE HOTELS ...!!
501
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
...BUT
Love hotels are cheap
SAME THING!

I'm being absurd.
I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP IN DIFFERENT ROOMS
THINKING YOU HAD COLLAPSED DEAD SOMEWHERE
THIS WHOLE TIME I WAS SICK WITH WORRY
But I can't stop myself.
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
HUG ME!
EH?! Am I scared?!
WHY
CAN'T YOU SAY IT
WITH A CUTE FACE?
Yeah you look like a glaring mask.

He holds me

like a precious treasure.

This is
lovely.

I want to be deceived.
SUGA-CHAN
HM?
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE SEX..?
...NO.
HUG
I DON'T FEEL LIKE THAT NOW.♡
Hug me more!!
.....

IT'S FINE! I GAVE YOU MONEY!!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A VIRGIN!
Irrate
Irrate
Irrate
YOU'RE
IT'S OKAY TO BE SELFISH ONCE IN A WHILE...!!
JERK
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO GROW UP!
This can't be...
SLEEPING TOGETHER TILL MORNING.
WE'RE
WE'RE SLEEPING TOGETHER.

SATISFIED
.....
.....
She won
It's hot
SQUEEZE
SUGA-CHAN
!!!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
You're being strange today
... YEAH
VARIOUS THINGS HAPPENED
"SOMETIMES"
"I FEEL REALLY SAD."
"WHEN I'M WITH YOU"

I'VE BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS A KID.
I THINK I'D FEEL BETTER IF I CRIED.
I'D SLEEP BETTER.
I FEEL LIKE I COULD GIVE TOMORROW MY ABSOLUTE BEST.
BUT I THINK I'M REALLY SAD.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HURT.
SO WHY CAN'T I EVER CRY?
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONTACT ME ANYMORE."
These few days have been really tiring.
WELL... I'M PAYING FOR MY MISTAKES.

THE TEARS
JUST WON'T COME.
I can't
force myself to cry.
For 19 years
I've pushed it deep down inside me.

My emotions
GOOD NIGHT.
thump
are overflowing.
This vivid
sense of reality
is bubbling up
inside me.

It's slightly different from the "flutter" in my heart.
It can't comfort me much.
But something is melting.
Something extremely hardened inside me can easily melt away.

with such tenderness
like he can.
I can't sleep
like a baby.
I know
he isn't a kind person.
But
no one else can hold me

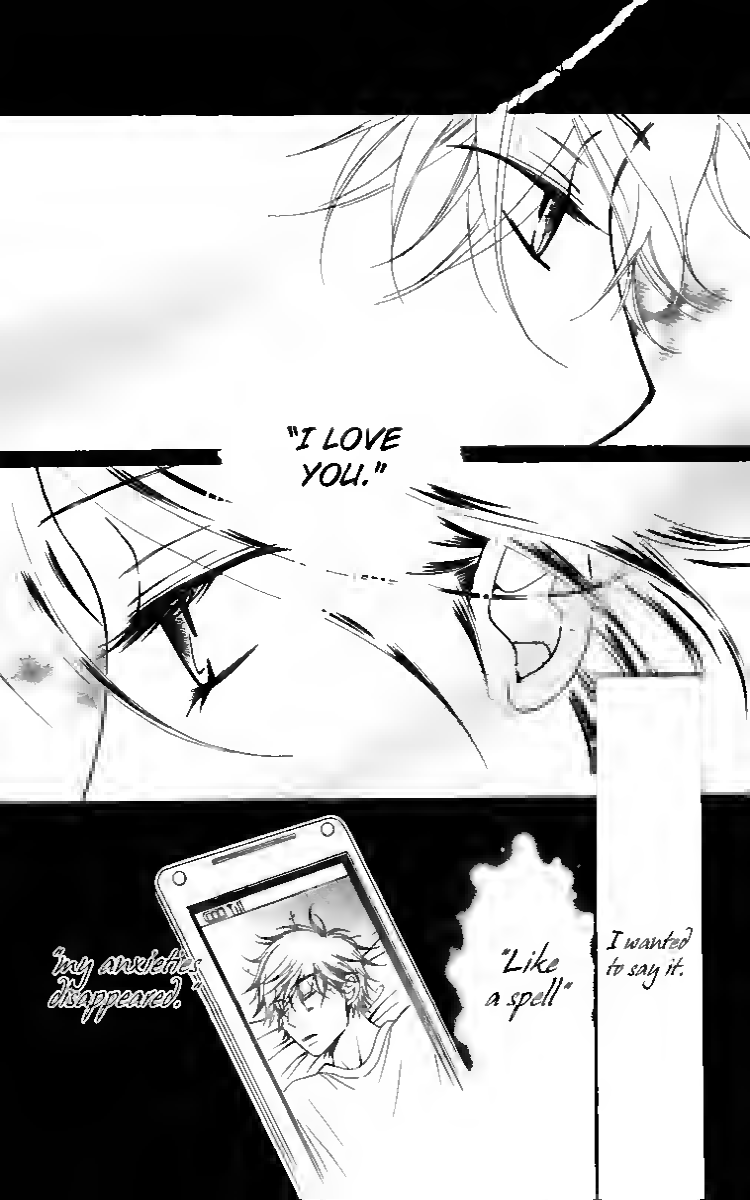
BLINK
HOTEL
Chirp
Chirp
Chirp
RUB
snore
...
HUH?!
.....
.....
I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL LATELY.
I got a good night's rest!!
1 min
OH YEAH!
MY VISION IS SUPER CLEAR!!
REFRESHED
Ehh?!
WHAT IS THIS?!!
are useless without sleep
humans
snore
WAS I IRRITATED?

STARE
snore
I'LL JUST TAKE A PICTURE
.....
HE'S SO CUTE..
////
snore
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
snore
ehehh
MY TREASURE...
SAVE it
MWAHAHA
Pervert
beep
beep
beep beep
beep
When I go back

Even if she rejects
I'll go see Remi.
time and again
I'll be okay.
I'm happy now.
WAKE UP, NARUMI!!
WHAT!
Geh
It's morning!!!
NOW THEN!
Should I leave soon?
owww!
stupid woman!
Cackle
Cackle
Cackle

WELL
I'M OFF.
AH! WHEN YOU GET TO KYOTO
SEND ME A PICTURE!
BUY ME A SOUVENIR TOO
YEAH I GOT IT
NARUMI
I
LOVE YOU.

I'LL BE WAITING IN TOKYO.


"I LOVE YOU."
I wanted to say it.
"Like a spell"
My anxieties disappeared.

he always
gives me anxiety.
and yet
He's dear to me
"SO YOU MAKE OTHERS"
"OUT TO BE THE WRONG DOERS, DON'T YOU?"
"MIZUHO-SAN"
"YOU WANT TO FIND SOME SHRED OF HONESTY IN HIKARU"
"YOU CAN DISTORT IT"
"AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE."
"YOU LIKE 'GUYS' LIKE THAT"
"SO YOU DISTORT REALITY TO JUSTIFY YOUR MEANS."
"THE HUMAN BRAIN"
"EASILY DECEIVES ITSELF."

"AS A PERSON"
"NARUMI? HE ONLY USES WOMEN."
"HE'S LACKING SOME MAJOR THINGS."
"HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY EMOTIONS!"
"DON'T! NARUMI IS—"
Squint
Please
He's not like that.

I need him.
Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi
YANAI TAKASHI
090XXXXXXXX
YANAI-SENPAI
AH...
HELLO?
OH... SORRY.
I TURNED MY PHONE OFF FOR THE NIGHT
I DIDN'T have my charger.
I WAS WORRIED THE BATTERY WOULD DIE...
I CALLED YOU A DOZEN TIMES YESTERDAY... BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER...
SUGA?
FINALLY, you picked up
Forgive me.

名古屋
なごや
Nagoya
HE'S IN NAGOYA!
EH...?
I KNOW WHERE KOUJI IS!!
WELL, NEVER MIND THAT.
ARE YOU OUTSIDE?
Charger?
Murmur Murmur Murmur
IT IS QUITE NOISY THERE.
SUGA, WHERE ARE YOU?
NAGOYA...
SENPAI ...
I'M IN NAGOYA.

HE'S NOT THERE
NARUMI? YOU SAW HIM?!
Murmur
Murmur
Murmur
CALLED ME
HUH?! WHY...?
NARUMI
WAIT FOR ME SOMEWHERE I'M GOING THERE
EH...? BUT..
I'LL GET ON THE SHINKANSEN NOW
SHE WAS WITH HIM ALL NIGHT?
I KNEW IT
IN NAGOYA?!
YES.
HE'S IN CONTACT WITH KOUJI...?!
I BEG YOU SUGA
YANAI-SENPAI
NARUMI IS...
NEVERMIND
DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH NARUMI
SUGA, LISTEN TO ME
GIVE UP... ON NARUMI.
IS HE WITH YOU NOW?!
He's not here now
WE JUST PARTED WAYS NOW
NO, HE CALLED LAST NIGHT...

HE

NEARLY KILLED A MAN.

AS YOU ASKED...
I GAVE THEM THE ADDRESS YOU GAVE ME FOR KOUJI...
SOME GUY CAME LOOKING FOR KOUJI YESTERDAY.
HIKARU?
IT'S ME KIDO
OKAY
HELLO?
Pi
NOT A PROBLEM.
Thank you
THAT'S HIM
OH, YANAI?
A TALL GUY WITH GLASSES
He looked like a geek.
IT WASN'T A WOMAN
What will I do?
YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF ME, KIDO-KUN!
PEOPLE DIE WHEN YOU AND KOUJI ARE TOGETHER
BY THE WAY
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO KOUJI?

YEAH
HE DIDN'T DIE
BUT THAT
DIDN'T MATTER TO YOU AT ALL
HIKARU
I
NEVER HATED YOU...
YOU'RE CAREFREE, NEVER AFRAID
AND DEVIOUS TOO...
WHEN I WAS WITH YOU
IT WAS EXCITING
that
BUT I
HAD A KID LAST YEAR
ohhh.
MY CONDOLENCES...
well, that's it.
WITH A WOMAN I WAS DATING...
NO, YOU IDIOT. I WAS HAPPY!
I WAS IN A PANIC AT FIRST ...
I THOUGHT ABOUT RUNNING AWAY...
BUT I LOVE THE WOMAN.

DOES THIS STORY MEAN NOTHING TO YOU?
I WON T SAY SOMETHING USELESS LIKE MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY TO YOU
BUT AT LEAST DON T DRAG OTHERS INTO YOUR TRASHY LIFE
I WANT TO CLEAN EVERYTHING
THEY TOUCH IN THIS WORLD...
MY VIEW OF THE WORLD CHANGED.
I TOLD HER I D WORK HARD SO WE CAN GET MARRIED.
SHE WAS SO HAPPY
SOMEHOW
AND ALSO
THEY'RE MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MYSELF

Honk
Honk
Honk
BYE.
Click
Shhhhhh
"WHEN YOU GET TO KYOTO, SEND ME A PICTURE!"

"I LOVE YOU."
CRASH

Please
I
need
him.
Forgive
me.

Kido Jumpei

He was fat when
he was young!
He looks tough,
but he is a kind guy.

Piece ⑤

ベツコミフラワーコミックス

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